

Support Program for Ex-Combatant Children, Colombia



7th
Quarter Report
October - December 2002



Niños, Niñas y Jóvenes Desvinculados
del Conflicto Armado



TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
II.	CONTEXT	4
	a. Ex-combatant Children	5
	b. Public Opinion	5
III.	SUMMARY PROGRAM STATUS (March 21, 2001 – December 31, 2002)	7
IV.	CONTINGENCY PLAN	10
V.	STRENGTHENING ICBF's SPECIALIZED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR EX-COMBATANT CHILDREN	
	a. Assistance Data	11
	b. Advances in the Assistance to Ex-combatant Children	17
	c. Health	22
	d. Education	25
	e. Income Generation and Employment	28
	f. Legal Component	29
	g. Socio-cultural Component	31
	h. Institutional Strengthening	34
VI.	SUPPORT TO INDIGENOUS AND AFRO-COLOMBIAN EX-COMBATANT CHILDREN	
	a. Cauca	38
	b. Chocó	43
VII.	PREVENTION	
	a. Strategies	46
	b. Implementation Advances	46
VIII.	INFORMATION DISSEMINATION	
	a. Legal Route	47
	b. Publications	48
	c. Cinemateca Distrital	49
	d. Andes University	50
IX.	LESSONS LEARNED	51
X.	WORK PRIORITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER	52
XI.	BILBIOGRAPHY	53
 ANNEXES		
	1. Financial Report	
	2. Press Release	
	3. Contingency Plan	
	4. Assistance	
	5. Project Cards	
	6. Education Strategy	
	7. Income Generation and Employment Strategy	
	8. Indigenous Demobilization Route	
 ATTACHMENTS		
	Book: "Roads Traveled" (Caminos Recorridos)	
	Document: Implementing Partners' Financial Analysis (Estudio de Costos)	
	Video: Children's and Cerlalc's Final Project	

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The last quarter of 2002 was marked by an intensification of terrorist attacks, aimed at government institutions in urban centers, which led to the preventive closing of some embassies located in Bogotá. The year ended with reforms that were made to tax, labor and retirement pensions regulations. Likewise the Colombian Congress approved the Referendum's text and the Law on Public Order was extended.

Compared to the previous quarter, for the reporting period the Support Program for Ex-combatant Children concluded the year with a 41% enrollment increase of demobilized children from the armed conflict. Between October and December 2002, 130 minors entered the program. It is the largest number since the program started, compared to 92 children who were assisted in the previous quarter. Since the beginning of the Program in March 2001, 649 ex-combatant children have been assisted through ICBF, of which 464 are males and 185 females. Additionally, the Program has begun assisting ex-combatant children belonging to ethnic minorities.

From October to December, the Program saw a significant increase of demobilized children coming from the United Self-defense Forces of Colombia (AUC, by its Spanish initials), 27, or (21%) out of the total number of children demobilized during this quarter and the largest number to this date. This situation is associated with the unilateral ceasefire announced by the AUC and its rapprochement with the Government in order to start peace talks. However, the greatest number of demobilized children still come from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), which represented 63% (82) of the total number of minors who entered the Program. Combats between irregular armed groups and the Colombian army were intensified, which might have had an impact on the increase of demobilized children, of whom 90 (69%) demobilized voluntarily and 40 (31%) were captured.

During 2002, 345 children were assisted in the two Transit Homes, Nine Specialized Attention Centers, including a new one located in the City of Armenia, and 7 Half Way Houses located in Bogotá, Cundinamarca, Medellín, Cali, Bucaramanga and Armenia. Children in the Program aside from being provided with health, board and room, have also received legal assistance, whereby 31 legal actions have been closed, and 141 civil registries and identification cards were processed. There were family meetings held for 64 children, in which the Program financed transportation, room and board for 143 of the children's relatives. In addition, there was clothing provided through the purchase of 143 sweat-suits, T-shirts, underwear, socks and tennis shoes for the demobilized ex-combatant children. For the Christmas Season, the Program awarded every child a bonus of \$21 and also contributed for the Christmas dinner.

Educational and cultural workshops were carried out with indigenous and African-Colombian children from the Departments of Cauca and Chocó, in which 452 children assisted in Cauca and 160 children in Chocó. In addition, four new income generation projects were approved and launched: pig breeding, dairy cows, laying hens, and grocery stores, which will benefit 20 former indigenous child soldiers. In 15 communities of ethnic minorities in Choco's, there were workshops conducted on Human Rights, International Humanitarian Law, Indigenous Legislation, Territorial Autonomy, and Children's Rights, which were attended by 160 children. The Program was also consolidated with the strengthening of the Contingency Plan, in view of the delivery of 18 ex-combatants by the AUC, and the announcement of a mass demobilization of an undetermined number of ex-combatant children.

The institutions continued fostering ex-combatant children's rights by the dissemination of the Legal Route ("Ruta Jurídica"). By the end of the quarter, 1230 officials of the public ministry, judges, family counselors, and community leaders received training through workshops given by Human Rights Ombudsman Office (Defensoría del Pueblo), the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF by its Spanish acronym) and Save The Children of the United Kingdom (SCUK). In addition, with the Program's contribution there was a Forum conducted at the *Universidad de los Andes* regarding Children and Armed Conflict; prizes were awarded to the winners of the announcement organized

by the *Cinemateca Distrital*, for the production of a short film and a documentary about “Children of the war”, and also the Program’s baseline research was published.

II. CONTEXT¹

At the end of this quarter, the context is characterized by the new government’s evaluation of its performance and by the political, economic and social reforms achieved. These gave insight on what will be the new administration’s line of action and also became the foundations for the new government development plan. The status can be summarized as follows:

In the economic area, the inflation average rate during 2002 was 6.9 %, higher than the rate determined by Banco de la República of 6%. The goal set for economic growth was 1.6%, but thanks to the benefits of the treaty of Andean Customs Preferences (ATPA, by its Spanish initials), the economic growth reached 3.5% for the beneficiaries of the ATPA and 2.5% for other businessmen. The GOC estimated a 2% economic growth for 2002. The year ended with three large economic reforms having an impact on the economic area: pension, labor and fiscal reform. In the first, the government increased age for retirement from the labor market, readjusting contributions in order to avoid the crisis and to prevent payment stoppage to retired people. The labor reform implies an increase of day working hours and a reduction of payment for night shifts. Payment of Sundays and national holidays was also reduced. With these adjustments the government aims to promote the creation of more employment. With the fiscal reform the government wishes to receive fresh money to prevent a fiscal crisis and to be able to finance the war against the illegal armed groups, setting a value-added tax of 2% and 7% to everyday products, and increased a surcharge to gas. Finally, there was an unexpected devaluation of the Colombian peso, ending the year with a 25% rate, almost three-times the (9%) estimated by the Banco de la República at the beginning of the year. In general, the situation of uncertainty marked national economy in a way that exports slowed down, access to the capital markets became difficult and the flow of external resources was restrained.

In the political field during the quarter the Senate approved an extension of the Public Order Law. This gives the Government legal tools for the establishment of peace talks with illegal armed groups. The bill eliminates the requirement of a political status to start negotiations, which favors opening up dialogues with paramilitary groups, and also allows the President to establish demilitarized zones. On the other hand, the Congress approved the referendum inquiry to be carry out in May 2003, on the condition that the Constitutional Court finds the referendum does not violate the Colombian Constitution and the National Register Agency (Colombian INS) has the logistics plan ready on time for voting. Some of the issues included to be decided were: resources from royalties transferred to health and education, loss of the investiture of Congressmen, elimination of some *Personerías* (People’s Attorney Office) and local comptrollers offices, extending the mandate of mayors and governors in office, and no increase in expenses and salaries of the Nation for a two-year period. There already exist manifestations, controversy and polemics towards the included issues in the text of the referendum.

In the field of peace, the government established during this quarter an exploratory peace commission with the Self Defense Groups (AUC). At the same time the FARC increased its escalating terrorist actions in urban centers, aimed at governmental institutions (Army and Police Corps), but massively affecting the civil population. In addition to this, the President’s proposal for mediation of the United Nations and of important personalities was rejected by the UN, which was aimed to disentangle the issue of humanitarian exchange. Up until this moment there have been no tangible results concerning the meetings between government delegates and the guerrilla group National Liberation Army (ELN).

¹ See Annex 2: Press Release

Other areas of the context worth mentioning is the government Development Plan which is focused on six main purposes "Towards a Communitarian State", with the following main titles:

- Security Strengthening
- Reactivation of the economy
- Government reform
- Public expense reduction
- Fight against corruption
- Social Investment

a. Ex-Combatant Children

The AUC, announced the delivery of the children withheld by them that were part of the guerilla groups. However, on December, the AUC delivered 18 underage from their own fronts. First 12 children and two weeks later 6 more, being the ICBF and the Human Rights Ombudsman Office the institutions in charge of receiving them, assisted by authorities of the municipality of Barrancabermeja in the department of Santander, and the logistic support for transportation, lodging, food and clothing from the Ex-Combatant Program. In spite of having announced handing over more children on December 24, this was not carried out, but there is a contingency plan ready for any massive demobilization of minors. The fact that demobilization of children from the armed groups is one of the first three priorities in the negotiation agenda of the government, might cause a massive demobilization from the AUC and become an important matter of discussion to which special attention should be given.

With the intensification of the combats between the national army and the illegal armed groups, the number of killed and captured people has increased in the last period, giving enough foundations to believe there will be recruitment of more children to replace those being killed.

On the 24th of December, Law 418 of 1997 was ratified whereby economic benefits and the condition of victims of the armed conflict of ex-combatant children remain, thus eliminating the requirement of belonging to an armed group with political status. The law was extended for four more years. During the quarter October-December a big effort was made on adjusting and improving the information system to have updated and reliable data on children assisted by the program. It has been established that the ICBF has assisted from January 1994 to December 31, 2002 a total of 1,195 ex-combatant children. Of this total, the Specialized Assistance Program has assisted 700 children for former child soldiers since it started in April 1999 to December 31, 2002. Within the framework of the Support Program for Ex-Combatant Children financed by USAID and carried out by ICBF, SCUK and IOM, 649 children have been assisted. Of this total, 97 were already in institutions of ICBF at the beginning of the program in March 21, 2001, and 552 have entered between this date and December 31, 2002.

During this quarter there was a significant increase of 41.3% in the number of demobilized children, having moved from 92 in previous quarter to 130 between October and December.

b. Public Opinion

On October 4 El Tiempo newspaper published an article on displaced persons showing that 4.5% of Colombian population (more than 2 million people) are in a situation of forced displacement by violence. The Social Solidarity Network (RSS) informs that the main cause of displacement (45%) is to avoid recruitment of children by the illegal armed groups.

On October 6, El Tiempo published an interview with the director of the Committee of the International Red Cross (CICR) which denounces the deterioration of human rights situation and the International Humanitarian Right, as a result of the escalation of the conflict.

On October 24, the national press (El Tiempo), the international press (The Washington Post) and television programs widely disseminated the so-called "Operation Orion", ordered by the President of the Republic in commune 13 in Medellín, due to the serious situation caused by a territorial dispute between the local militia groups and the self-defense groups (AUC). In the operation 18 were killed and more than 250 people were captured, including 30 children recruited by the urban militia groups.

On October 25, the Ministry of Health disseminates a press release number 25, denouncing that because of the serious situation of public order, at least 5,000 children may not be vaccinated in 17 municipalities, as the armed groups did not allow the installation of small posts to carry out the national campaign of vaccination on the 27th of October.

Newspaper El Tiempo informs on filing of Law 418 on public order being approved and extending its term for a second time. Previously it had been extended until December 2002. Furthermore, a wording reform was accepted eliminating the condition of illegal armed groups having political status in order to participate in peace talks. This law includes a wording that considers former child soldiers as victims of the armed conflict.

On October 31, newspaper El Tiempo publishes an article on sexual abuse of children, denouncing that annually eleven thousand children are victims of abuse, which means 30 cases per day. In the Program it has been established that abuse and family violence are causes that facilitate the entry of boys and girls into the armed groups.

On November 29, newspaper El Tiempo published a press release from AUC announcing a unilateral stop of hostilities during the end of year holidays and also delivery of child soldiers to UNICEF.

On December 4, the newspaper (El Tiempo) and television made a brief description on "The Children of War", prepared by the Ombudsman Office and UNICEF, which denounces the alarming increase of recruitment of children by the armed groups. This report is based on interviews with 80 children assisted by the Support Program for Ex-Combatant Children financed by USAID. The Human Rights Ombudsman announces a follow-up on 200 children who have been assisted by the Program.

On December 5, the newspaper "Diario el Sur" publishes an article on the program for former child soldiers, carried out by IOM and the Regional Peace Commissioner in the department of Cauca. It informs on the activities developed with youngsters of 4 municipalities of the department, and especially on the assembly held with the participation of 300 indigenous and Afro-Colombian youngsters benefiting from the program, in order to evaluate results.

On December 7, written press (El Tiempo) and television inform on the delivery of 13 child soldiers by the Bolívar Central Front of the AUC, one day after their announcement of the unilateral stop in hostilities. Delivery took place in the Municipality of San Rafael de Lebrija, in the department of Santander. Through the Support Program for Ex-Combatant Children, land and air transportation was provided, and also food, lodging, clothing and toiletries.

On December 11, newspaper El Tiempo publishes an article on complaints for the assistance to former child soldiers informed in the report of the People's Attorney (*Procuraduría*), which mentions weaknesses in the program of assistance to those children. The Human Rights Ombudsman Office and UNICEF in this same article give a good rating to the program.

On December 14, the newspaper "El Independiente" publishes a report of the Special Representative of the Security Council of United Nations naming the five countries Afghanistan, Burundi, Republic of Congo, Libya and Somalia with the highest forced recruitment of children. The UN representative recommends that other countries with an armed conflict, like Colombia, should be included in the list.

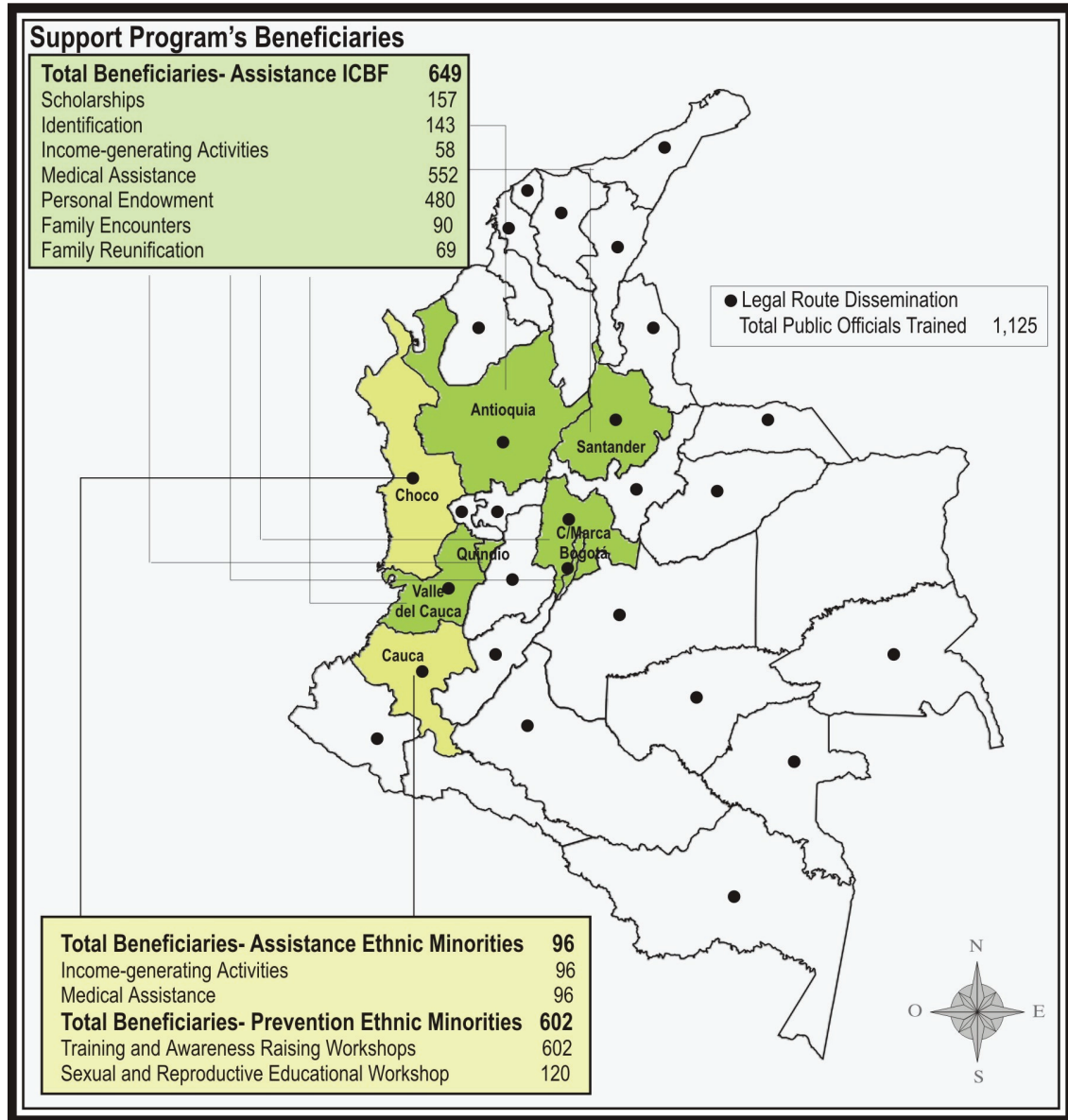
On December 15, the newspaper El Tiempo publishes an article entitled: "Children's War", presenting three life stories of children of the AUC demobilized in the department of Santander. It also informs on the release of 6 additional children to the 13 initial ones by the Bolivar Central Group. These children were assisted within the Contingency Plan prepared in case of a massive demobilization of children from the AUC.

III. SUMMARY PROGRAM STATUS (MARCH 21, 2001 – DECEMBER 31, 2002)

COMPONENTS	INITIAL GOALS OF THE AGREEMENT GRANT	ACHIEVEMENTS (March 21, 2001 – December 31, 2002)
Direct beneficiaries	Support to 800 former child soldiers	649 former Child Soldiers supported through IOM-ICBF-SC UK Program 96 Indigenous and afro-Colombian former child soldiers supported through the Program's Alliance with Cauca's governorship and Ombudsman Office.
SOCIAL NETWORK AND CONTINGENCY PLAN		
Workshops	Development of one national workshop during the first year and another one during the second year.	The first National Workshop was carried out. Additionally, 5 Regional Workshops and 2 Seminars have been programmed to introduce the Program to other institutions.
Baseline and additional opportunities	Development of program's baseline.	1. Developed and published a baseline for the Program. 2. A map of agencies that could offer assistance has been developed for 13 departments where such demobilization seems possible. Space for 965 potential demobilizing children has been identified in 36 institutions. This information has been distributed in CD-ROM to all of ICBF's Regional Offices and other relevant agencies.
STRENGTHENING OF THE EXISTING PROGRAMS		
Improvement of ICBF's Information System	Building of the Program's information system, through the hiring of a specialist.	A database was designed where all information of the children assisted is systematized (sex, age, educational level, etc.). ICBF's central and 5 Regional Offices were furnished with office equipment. Additionally, 16 professionals were hired (for operative, legal and social reintegration strengthening).
Existing Specialized Attention Centers	Support to 4 existing centers.	Support has been given to 4 Specialized Attention centers (La Bella, Melquíades, Arco Iris and Agarta), through furnishing, financial aid for rent, salaries, Christmas bonus and mobile phone's services. Professionals have been hired to strengthen areas of reading and writing. Regular education and income-generation activities have been developed.
New Centers (equipment)	Opening of two new centers	4 new Specialized Attention Centers and 2 Transit Homes were opened.
New Centers (2001) month/child Costs	Cost of 40 month/child covered	Cost of 80 month / child is covered in the three Specialized Attention Centers and in the Transit Home (Buendía, Puertas Abiertas, Nueva Vida, Luna and Pietro Crespi)
Family reunification opportunities	Cost of 200 year/child	47 year/ child costs have been covered in Half Way Houses (20 in Cundinamarca, 17 in Cali y 10 in Bucaramanga). The Program has also furnished 9 Half Way Houses that have been created and has assumed the monthly cost for the 4 Half Way Houses located in Bogotá. Income-generation and education (scholarships) projects have been supported; health assistance has also been given. A fund has been reserved in case of a massive demobilization.
Family Reunification	Carrying out 200 family encounters and/ or family reunifications.	98 family encounters and 69 family reunifications have been coordinated. 14 family encounters will be carried out during the next quarter. A revolving fund for income generation projects and a scholarship fund have been designed.

Technical Assistance. Sub-grant to Save the Children United Kingdom	Technical assistance for the strengthening of the Specialized Attention Centers	Institutional strengthening for the Specialized Attention Centers and the implementation of the social network has been carried out. Additional community leaders have been trained on the existing legal framework for ex-combatant children. Contingency plan was formulated.
Information Dissemination	Activities related to the improvement of the acceptance of ex-combatant children in society.	Dissemination of information has been carried out through a video, seminars and publications (Baseline of the Program, Program' pamphlet, institutional folder, etc.). Additionally, two cultural events have been carried out.
RESEARCH ON THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND PUBLICATIONS		
Research Team	Hiring of 4 researchers for the evaluation of the legal framework	The Human Right's Ombudsman Office carried out the Legal Framework evaluation. A document on the Legal Route that outlines the legal standing for ex-combatant children was developed.
Publications	Publishing of 200 copies	The design, publication and dissemination of the "Ruta Jurídica" (Legal Route). To date 2,500 copies of the "Ruta Jurídica" have been published. Additionally, financial support was provided for the edition and publication of 1,500 samples of the book "Warriors Without Shadow" and "Children, Youth and the Armed Conflict"
Training to Legal and Institutional Authorities	Development of 11 workshops.	Support has been given to ICBF to carry out 6 workshops, in which 200 people (judges, military, community leaders, teachers and family counselors) have been trained on the contents of the "Legal Route". Five more workshops are scheduled to train 200 more people.
OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE CONTINGENCY PLAN		
Training on the Legal Route that outlines legal standing for ex-combatant children	Development of 11 workshops	33 workshops have been carried out. The Human Rights' Ombudsman Office has trained 935 public officials (public defenders and General Attorney's Office). 115 more public official are scheduled to be trained during the next quarter.
Children's transportation and travel expenses	For the second year of the project (2002) transportation for 600 ex-combatant children. (This number refers to the number of potentially demobilized children)	Support for the transportation of 26 children has been given, according to ICBF's requirements.
Transit Homes	Creation of 4 new Transit Homes for the second year.	Three Transit homes have been open, of which two are operating. Support with furniture and with the month/child cost (only for one Transit Home) has been given. Additionally, 10 extra month/child costs are financed in one of the Specialized Attention Centers and a fund has been reserved for this end.
Observation Centers	Assistance to 400 children in case of massive demobilization.	24 extra month/ child cost have been financed in the Specialized Attention Centers, according to ICBF's request.
NEW ACTIVITIES OF THE PROGRAM		
Support to Indigenous and Afro-Colombian former child soldiers	This component was not foreseen in the original Grant Agreement.	<u>Cauca:</u> A prevention project is being carried out with indigenous and afro-Colombian communities in the department of Cauca. 452 children are direct beneficiaries. Assistance is also given to 83 already identified ex-combatant children providing them with access to a revolving fund for income-generating activities. <u>Chocó:</u> A prevention project in Chocó started its implementation at the end of this quarter. It will benefit Indigenous and Afro-Colombian children. 115 children will be direct beneficiaries. Income-generating activities for 13 ex-combatant children are also stipulated.
Prevention	This component was not foreseen in the original Grant Agreement.	Prevention strategy at this time could include: i) a strategy incorporating awareness and social communication, ii) training of local officials, iii) broad-based information campaigns, iv) access to education for children in high risk of being recruited and v) a domestic violence prevention project.

Map #1: Support Program for Ex-combatant Children – Beneficiaries



IV. CONTINGENCY PLAN²

Currently, the increase of the military actions between the diverse armed groups involved in the armed conflict, has made the State, aided by the international cooperation, take the necessary steps in order to face demobilization from the illegal armed groups; one of them being the creation of the Specialized Assistance Program for Ex-combatant Children, OIM-ICBF- SCUK.

Between January and December 31st, 2002, 394 ex-combatant children have been assisted; record number in the Program's assistance history. This situation calls for a careful consideration on the need to increase the Program's installed capacity as well as the strengthening of the existing protection networks for children in high risk of being recruited.

During December, one of AUC's main factions, "Bloque Central Bolivar", turned in 19 child soldiers and announced their will to turn in all child soldiers fighting in their armed group. As stated before, this declaration implies the need to strengthen and increase the Program's assistance capacity and geographical coverage.

In reaction to AUC's declaration, the Program, aided by nine other national and international institutions, united efforts to draw up a Contingency Plan. The institutions involved were: ICBF, human Rights Ombudsman Office, General Direction for Reintegration, the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Health, the High Commissioner Office for Peace, Colombian Red Cross, UNICEF and IOM, supported by USAID.

The possible demobilization sceneries considered are: humanitarian crisis, negotiations, captures and/or voluntary turn in by armed groups to State authorities. The Contingency Plan considers 6 components (see Annex).

- i. Levels and Strategies for Inter-Institutional Coordination: national and /or regional, collaborating institutions.
- ii. Phases: of reception and assistance.
- iii. Actions: general and specific for each phase.
- iv. Designation of Responsibilities: for each action and activity by phase.
- v. Complementary Actions: simultaneously select institutions for assistance, training of official, institutional information, among others.
- vi. Budget and Finance: Financial aid and procedures.

The Contingency Plan was put into action with the 19 children turned in by the armed group AUC and was financed entirely with the Program's funds. Advances have also been made in the preparation components: a public announcement was made to NGO's willing to participate in an emergency, resulting in the selection of two institutions. Additionally, the installed capacity identified in the institutional mapping done previously in case of massive demobilization were confirmed; also new technical team has been trained.

² See Annex 3: Contingency Plan

V. STRENGTHENING THE ICBF's SPECIALIZED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR EX-COMBATANT CHILDREN

a. Assistance Data³

The Colombian Institute for Family Welfare has reported ex-combatant children since 1994. The accumulated data on the information system reports 1195 ex-combatant children assisted between November 1994 and December 31, 2002.

Due to an increase in the reports of demobilizing children, on November 1999, the ICBF creates the Specialized Assistance Program for Ex-combatant Children, which up until December 31st, 2002 has assisted 700 former child soldiers.

Of these **700**, 552 children have been demobilized and received in the Specialized Assistance Program since March 21st, 2001 when the strategic IOM- USAID Grant Agreement for the Support Program for Ex-combatant Children was launched. Additionally, before the Agreement, 97 children were already being assisted and continued benefiting from the Program's new financial support. So far, the Agreement Grant through ICBF's Specialized Assistance Program has supported a total of **649** former child soldiers.

Table #1: Beneficiaries Report⁴

Beneficiaries Report		
1994 - 2001	Ex-combatant Children Reported / Assisted by ICBF from November 1994 to November 1999.	495
	Ex-combatant Children Assisted by the Specialized Assistance Program from November 1999 to March 2001.	51
Sub-Total	Ex-combatant Children Reported / Assisted before OIM-USAID Agreement Grant	546
2001-2002	Ex-combatant Children who Remain in the Specialized Assistance Program on March 21, 2001.	97
	Incoming Ex-combatant Children to the Specialized Assistance Program from March 21, 2001 to December 31, 2002.	552
Sub-Total	Ex-combatant Children Supported by the OIM-USAID Agreement Grant	649
Total		1195

As shown above, assistance to ex-combatant children can be divided in two periods:

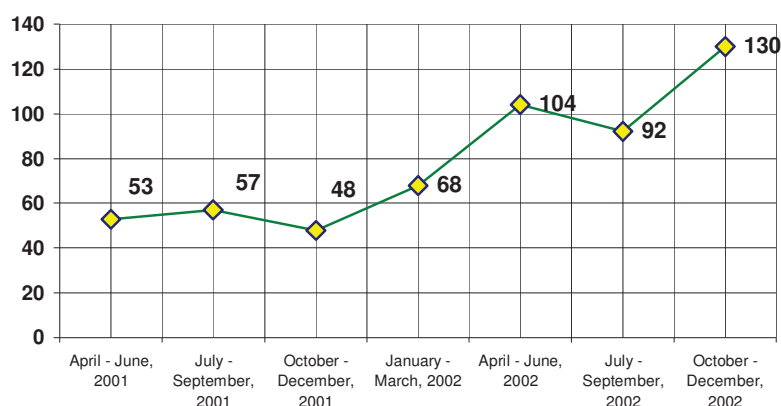
- The first period goes from November 1994 to March 20th, 2001. During these almost 7 years, 546 children were assisted.
- The second period starts with the launching of the OIM-USAID Agreement Grant on March 21st, 2001 up until December 31st, 2002 – final date of the reporting quarter. During these 21 months 649 children have been assisted.

The increase in the assistance numbers is due to the strengthening of the Program's installed capacity. Data on incoming children is shown in the following graph:

³ See Annex 4: Assistance

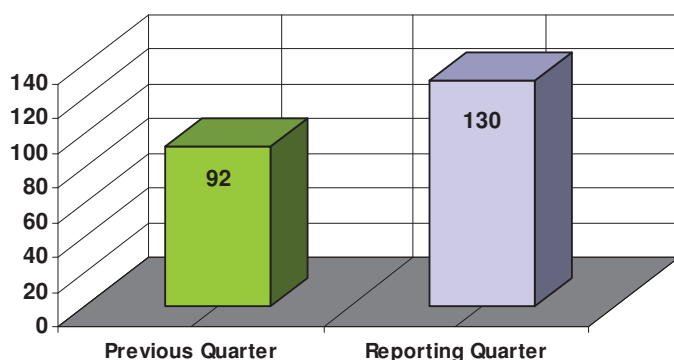
⁴ During the reporting quarter the database was purged. Based on data presented during the previous quarter, differences were presented in: 1.) the number of children remaining on March, 21, 2001; 2.) on the distribution of incoming children by quarter; and 3.) on the total of ICBF's Reported/Assisted Ex-combatant Children.

Graph #1: Data on Incoming Children by Quarter



Graph #1 also reflects the political changes being lived in each quarter, especially during the last 4 quarters. For example, with the ending of the peace dialogs between former president Andres Pastrana and the FARC guerrilla group on February 2001, and increase of 53% on incoming children (104) is observed between April and June, compared to the previous quarter were only 68 demobilized children were received. Afterwards, during the following quarter (July-September), which coincides with the change of government administration, where generally people tend to experience uncertainty, a small decrease in the voluntary child demobilizations and captures is observed (92).

Graph #2: Data on Incoming Children during the Last two Quarters



Demobilization is increased by 34% (38) during the reporting quarter compared to the previous one. To a certain degree this was influenced by the beginning of peace talks between Alvaro Uribe's administration and the AUC, which gave way on December to the turn in of 19 AUC child soldiers.

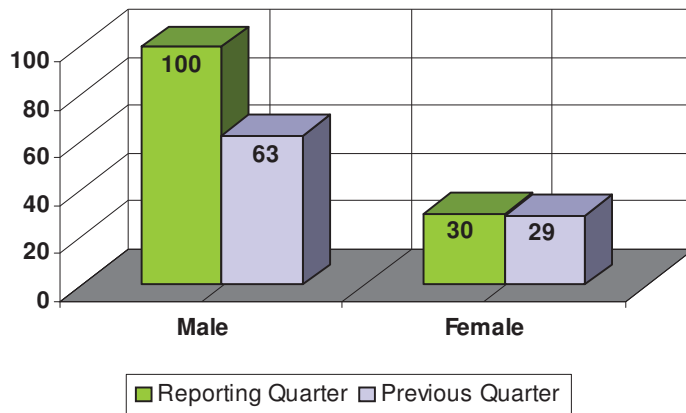
The latter, is represented in the following table:

Table #2: Data on Incoming Children During the Reporting Quarter by Month and Gender

Data on incoming Children during reporting quarter (Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2002)			
	Male	Female	TOTAL
October	27	12	39
November	29	8	37
December	44	10	54
Total	100	30	130

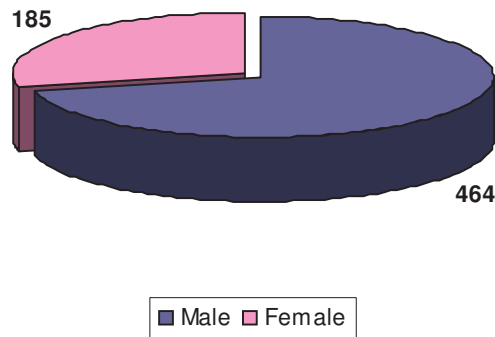
During this quarter, the month with most demobilization was December, which represents 41% out of the total 130 former child soldiers. On the other hand, October was the month with the majority of ex-combatant girls demobilizing, being 40% (12 out of 30).

Graph #3: Incoming Children by Gender during the Last Two Quarters



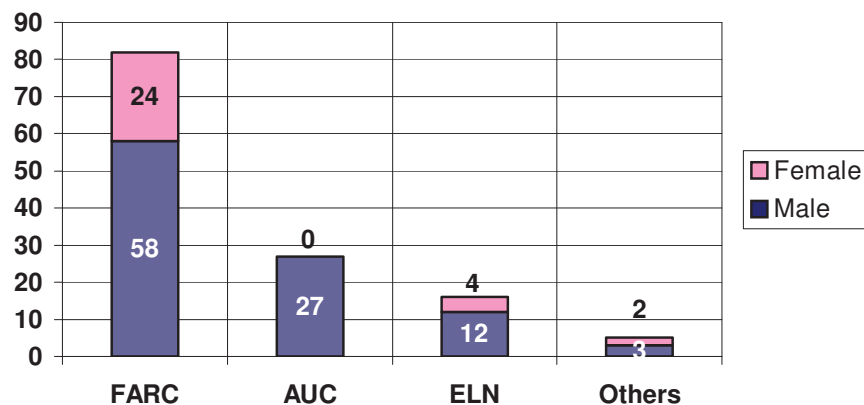
Demobilization by gender between October and December saw a slight decrease in relation to the usual tendencies of 70% male and 30% female reported in previous quarters. As shown in the Graph, during this quarter female demobilization represents 23% out of the total (30 out of 130), which means an average decrease of 7%.

Graph #4: Accumulated Data on Assisted Children by Gender Distribution



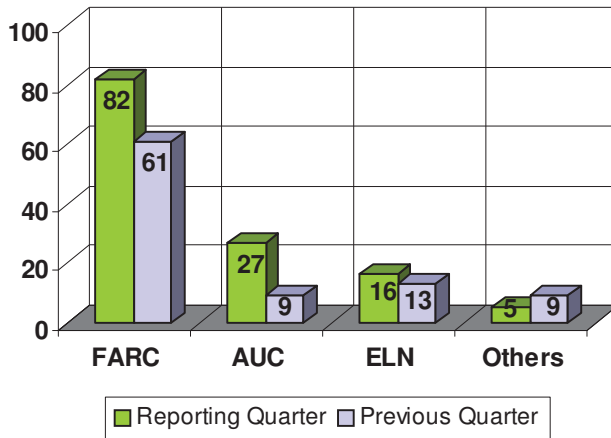
Distribution by gender in the accumulated data (649) comprises 29% females and 71% males. This means that the slight decrease in female demobilization during the reporting quarter did not affect in a significant degree the gender distribution of the accumulated data.

Graph #5: Demobilization by Armed Group and Gender During Reporting Quarter



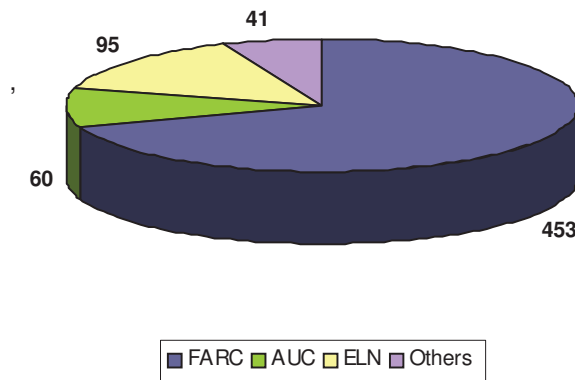
Demobilization by armed group continues being mostly from FARC guerrilla group, represented by 63% during this quarter. However, its worth noticing in the gender distribution that from October to December there was no female demobilization from armed group AUC.

Graph #6: Data on Incoming Children by Armed Group Demobilization during the Last Two Quarters



Even though the tendency continues being primarily demobilization from the FARC armed group, during this quarter it decreased by 3% (82 out of 130) compared to the previous one (61 out of 92). Another significant change, which is due to the political context lived during the reporting quarter, was the increase in demobilization from AUC armed group, representing from October to December, 20%. Compared to the previous quarter, demobilization from AUC tripled.

Graph #7: Accumulated Data on Assisted Children by Demobilization from Armed Groups



The distribution of the accumulated data on demobilization by armed groups is as follows: FARC, 69%; ELN, 14%; AUC, 9% y others, 6%.

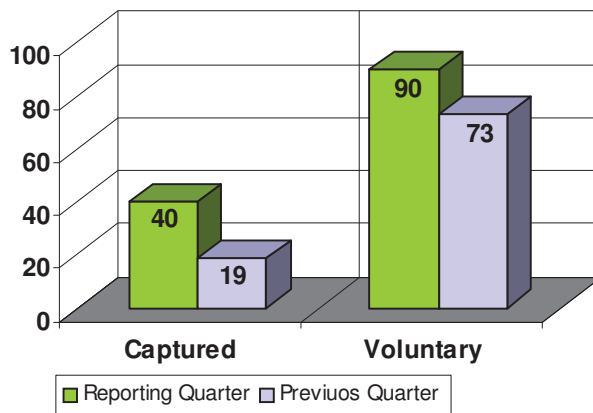
This distribution suggests that in general FARC and ELN demobilizations have decreased, while demobilization from AUC and Other minor armed groups has increased.

Graph #8: Data on Incoming Children by Type of Demobilization and Gender



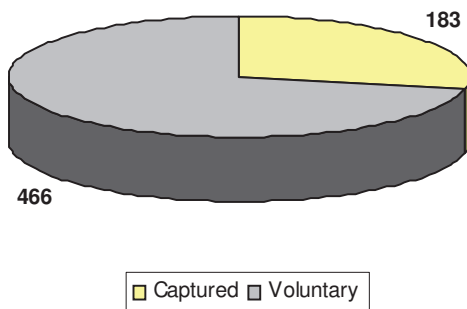
Voluntary demobilization, as well as in previous quarters continues representing the highest percent during the reporting quarter, with 69% out of the total. However, it is worth noticing that there is a minor difference in female demobilization between those captured and those who have voluntary demobilized, while in the male demobilization percentage there is a marked difference between types of demobilization. Male voluntary demobilization is almost three times greater than captures. This fact reflects that in the armed groups, there is no distinction made between boys and girls when it comes to combat.

Graph #9: Data on Incoming Children by Type of Demobilization During the Last Two Quarters



When comparing type of demobilization between this quarter and the previous one, the graph shows that proportionally to the total of demobilizations in each quarter, voluntary demobilization was greater in the previous quarter (79% out of 92) than in the reporting quarter (69% out of 130). This suggests that captures from October to December (31%) increased by a 10% compared from July to September (21%).

Graph #10: Accumulated Data on Assisted Children by type of Demobilization



The accumulated reported data on type of demobilization from armed groups is distributed as follows: 28% captures and 72% voluntary demobilization.

Table #3: Data on Incoming Children by Age and Gender

Data on Incoming Children by Age and Gender (Oct. - Dec. 2002)				
Age	Reporting Quarter			
	Male	Female	Total	%
12	0	2	2	1.53%
13	3	1	4	3.07%
14	9	4	13	10%
15	16	8	24	18.46%
16	29	8	37	28.46%
17	40	7	47	36.15%
18	2	0	2	1.53%
19	1	0	1	0.76%
Total	100	30	130	99.96%

Just like the table on the left shows, demobilization between ages 12-13 accumulate 5%, which is relatively high compared with previous quarters.

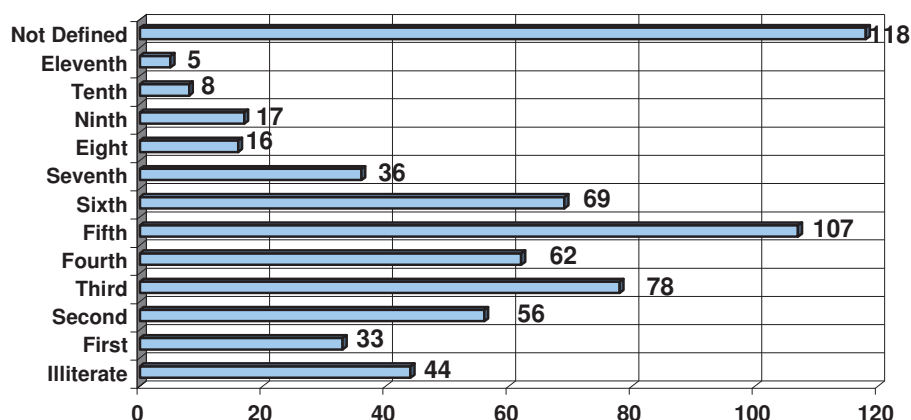
Age distribution by gender is more or less similar between boys and girls, being ages 15 through 17, the most common for demobilization. However it is worth mentioning that 40% of the boys are age 17, while only out of the total of girls, only 20% represent this age. Therefore, one can conclude that during this quarter the males demobilized are older than females.

Table #4: Data on Incoming Children by Educational level and Gender

Data on Incoming Children by Educational Level and Gender (Oct. - Dec. 2002)				
Educational Level	Male	Female	Total	%
Illiterate	10	4	14	10.07%
First	9	0	9	6.90%
Second	10	0	10	7.60%
Third	17	5	22	16.92%
Fourth	15	4	19	14.61%
Fifth	14	7	21	16.15%
Sixth	10	5	15	11.53%
Seventh	4	5	9	6.92%
Eight	4	0	4	3.07%
Ninth	4	0	4	3.07%
Tenth	1	0	1	0.76%
Eleventh	0	0	0	0%
Not Defined	2	0	2	1.53%
Total	100	30	130	99%

For this quarter, the proportional percentage of boys (10%) and girls (13%) who present illiteracy, are similar. The similitude is also shown in the educational level distribution, being 3rd through 6th, the educational levels with highest percentages in both sexes. Additionally, the table shows that 32% out of the total of the girls are above primary education, while the same fact in boys represents 23%.

Graph #11: Accumulated Data on Assisted Children by Educational Level



The Support Program for Ex-combatant Children considers the lack of access to education a key factor to children's recruitment (forced or voluntary) into armed groups. The graph on accumulated data up until December 31st, shows it does indeed exist a cause and effect relationship between a low educational level and former child soldiers. As shown, 44 children (7%) are illiterate and 336 (51%) did not finish primary education. This last fact, suggests that although half of the assisted children did have access once to the educational system, for one reason or another they ended up dropping out. Out of the total 649, only 151 (23%) present high school levels.

There is no available information on the educational level of 118 children (18%) due the Program's lack of a complete information system during the first years of assistance.

b. Advances in the Assistance to Ex-combatant Children⁵

1. Protection Phase

a) *Transit Home*

During the reporting quarter, both existing Transit Homes, located in Bogotá, continued receiving children.

Due to the war's intensification, from October to December, the Support Program saw an increase in the demobilization of child soldiers, as mentioned above. The number of demobilizing children surpassed the Program's installed capacity, which according to ICBF's assistance guidelines cannot be greater than 20 children per institution (See Table #6).

The effect on having more children than the installed capacity can handle was seen in Transit Home Luna, where an additional person had to be hired for the technical team, in order to carry out the recreational and occupational activities contemplated in the assistance given. During this phase the most important activities are the ones that help calm the child's anxieties, since it the first phase after his/her demobilization.

Transit Home Jose had the same problem as Luna. So, during the reporting quarter the number of incoming children obliged the institution to re-accommodate its space and to hire an extra tutor. These changes had the positive effect of qualifying and strengthening the assistance given.

⁵ See Annex 5: Project Cards

The continued influx of children, also presented its problems to ICBF's Regional Office, especially during the identification and distribution of free spaces inside the Specialized assistance Program as a whole. Generally, this process is guided by the child's initial evaluation done in Transit Homes (His/her culture, preferences). However during this quarter, due to great number of incoming children, spaces were assigned based on only two criteria: space availability and security.

b) Specialized Assistance Center (CAE)

The opening of another CAE in December in the City of Armenia, Department of Quindío, increased the installed capacity of the Specialized Assistance Centers. The new institution's name is AGAPE and its Agreement was signed on December 20th with ICBF's Regional Office. Added to the 8 already existing CAEs, the opening of Agape has increased this phase's installed capacity for an assistance of 180 children.

Just as Transit Homes, Specialized Assistance Centers also suffered consequences on the influx of demobilizing children during this quarter, many of them having to assist more than 20 at one given moment. CAEs such as La Bella, Buendía and Arco Iris assisted between 23 and 24 children, while waiting for family reunification and transfers to Half Way Houses to be carried out.

In general, activities in the CAEs during this quarter were focused on planning, carrying out and systematizing the experiences from the Family Reencounters, strategy that aims at working on the Family Reunification and social reintegration of the children. (See Socio – cultural Component).

Additionally, CAEs were also busy in December planning the activities for the end of the year, such as the end of school semesters. CAEs also planed and prepared activities for the holidays in order to create a warm and festive environment during Christmas and New Years, dates which are particularly difficult for the children since many of them tend to feel homesick. However, the highlight of the celebrations was the school graduation for those who finished an educational level. (See Education).

On the other hand, at the end of this quarter, there were some administrative changes in the hired implementing agencies in Antioquia and Santander.

In the department of Santander, during the second week of December, the Agreement with implementing agency Agarta was canceled. This NGO was in charge of CAE "Semillas de Paz" since the January 1st, 2002 and was replaced by "Hogares Claret" hired directly by ICBF on December 11th. The institutions had the necessary meetings for the transferring of information on the children and their processes.

In Antioquia, the Agreement between IOM and ASPERLA Association, in charge of CAE "Nueva Vida" was canceled on December 27th. From now on the month/child cost will be financed by ICBF's Regional Office in Antioquia.

Table # 5: Accumulated Data on Assisted Children by Institution

Type of Institution	Name of the Institution	Assisted Children - Reporting Quarter			Assisted Children - Previous Quarter			Accumulated Assisted Children by Institution till Dec. 31 de 2002		
		M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Transit Home	Luna	43	12	55	29	16	45	89	29	118
	José	43	21	64	31	11	42	111	48	159
Specialized Assistance Center	Arco Iris	12	1	13	11	0	11	68	12	80
	Benposta	8	2	10	12	3	15	39	15	54
	Buendía	15	9	24	9	0	9	86	37	123
	La Bella	10	3	13	4	3	7	69	22	91
	Puertas Abiertas	5	3	8	9	3	12	39	12	51
	Semillas de Paz	8	1	9	7	3	10	43	19	62
	Melquíades	18	5	23	0	1	1	32	12	44
	Nueva Vida	5	3	8	3	0	3	35	8	43
	Ágape	17	3	20	0	0	0	17	3	20
Total		184	63	247	115	40	155	628	217	845

As observed in the above table, there was a significant increase in the number of children assisted during this quarter when compared to the previous one; the difference of assistance between 115 children during the previous quarter and 247 during the reporting quarter, represents an increase of **60%**. The latter is due, to the armed conflict's intensification. CAEs Buendía and Melquíades were the ones with the greatest numbers of incoming children during this quarter.

Table #6: Data on Incoming and Remaining Children

Type of Institution	Name of the Institution	Children remaining in the Program on September 30, 2002	Incoming Children – Reporting Quarter	Children remaining in the Program on December 31, 2002	Total
Transit Home	Luna	23	55	19	42
	José	21	55	23	
Specialized Assistance Center	Arco Iris	20	2	25	191
	Benposta	17	0	20	
	Buendía	20	4	20	
	La Bella	20	2	20	
	Puertas Abiertas	20	0	19	
	Semillas de Paz	22	0	22	
	Agape	0	2	20	
	Melquiades	20	1	25	
	Nueva Vida	20	0	20	
Half Way Houses	Rayuela	20	0	0	44
	Macondo	0	0	19	
	Juan Bosco	7	0	16	
	Agarta	12	0	9	
ICBF's Institutions	Protection Network	49	9	68	68
Total		291	130	345	345

This quarter saw an increase of 19%, compared to the previous quarter, in the number of remaining children. The type of assistance showing the greatest increase is the Protection Network Institutions. Additionally, even though a new CAE was opened during the reporting quarter, there are still 3 CAEs assisting more children than their installed capacity allows, for a total of 12 additional children.

2. Social Reintegration Alternatives

a) *Half Way Houses*

On December 5th, the 4 Half Way Houses in Bogotá finished the one-year assistance process stipulated in the IOM-Fundación Rayuela Agreement. Replacing it, Macondo Corporation was selected based on the accumulated experience it has on ex-combatant children's assistance.

Therefore, activities during the quarter were focused on the process' termination, the transferring of institutions and the hiring of Macondo.

An evaluation was made for each of the children in the Half Way Houses, in order to have a precise picture of their legal, educational and social reintegration process. The evaluation was done between ICBF, IOM, Fundación Rayuela and Macondo Corporation.

Table #7: Data on Transfers to Half Way Houses

Type of Institution	Name of Institution	# of Children Transferred to Half Way Houses - Reporting Quarter	# of Children Transferred to Half Way Houses - Previous Quarter	Accumulated Data on Children Transferred to Half Way Houses
Specialized Assistance Center	Arco Iris	5	1	15
	Benposta	0	0	0
	Buendía	3	1	9
	La Bella	5	0	12
	Puertas Abiertas	3	5	9
	Semillas de Paz	4	1	13
	Melquíades	2	0	2
	Nueva Vida	4	0	4
	Ágape	0	0	0
ICBF's Institutions	Protection Network	2	0	3
Total		28	8	67

As shown in the table above, between October and December, there was an increase of 31% on the children being transferred to Half Way Houses. This increase is related to the transferring of institutions between Rayuela and Macondo. Additionally, the vacancies in Cali's Half Way Houses were completed.

b) *Family Reunification*

Although children with Family Reunification only represent 33% out of the total of those who leave the Program's protection phase, compared to last quarter there was an increase; between October and December, 25 children had Family Reunifications. December 31st, 69 former child soldiers have returned to live with their families (see Table #8).

The Program considers Family Reunification the first alternative for Social Reintegration. Priority is given for children to explore their return with their families. However, the increase of violence and the outbreak of the armed conflict, not only in the countryside but also in the cities, limit the children's possibilities to reunite and build its life project at home with his family.

Currently, the Program has identified as fundamental the development of a follow up system for children in family reunification. The follow-up system will have the main function of monitoring and assisting the child's development once he/she has returned with the family. As it is shown in the education section, one of the Program's strategies has been the implementation of a scholarship system for formal education and vocational-technical training. The scholarship system fund aims to qualify the children's abilities and knowledge in order to enhance their life opportunities.

Table #8: Data on Family Reunifications

Type of Institution	Name of Institution	# of Children with Family Reunification During Reporting Quarter	# of Children with Family Reunification - Previous Quarter	Accumulated Data on Children with Family Reunification till Dec. 31, 2002
Transit Home	Luna	3	1	4
	José	1	1	2
Specialized Assistance Center	Arco Iris	1	2	5
	Benposta	1	0	5
	Buendía	6	1	20
	La Bella	4	3	11
	Puertas Abiertas	2	2	8
	Semillas de Paz	0	1	2
	Melquíades	3	0	3
	Nueva Vida	4	0	5
	Ágape	0	3	0
ICBF's Institutions	Protection Network	0	0	4
Total		25	14	69

The following table shows this quarter's different sceneries for children who exit from the protection to the social reintegration phase.

Table #9: Data on Children's Exit from the Protection Phase

Type of Institution	Name of Institution	# of Deserted Children - Reporting Quarter	# of Children Transferred to Half Way Homes - Reporting Quarter	# of Children with Family Reunification During Reporting Quarter	# of Children Transferred to Social Reintegration Program - Reporting Quarter	Total
Transit Home	Luna	1	0	3	0	4
	José	11	0	1	0	12
Specialized Assistance Center	Arco Iris	0	5	1	1	7
	Benposta	2	0	1	2	5
	Buendía	1	3	6	0	10
	La Bella	0	5	4	0	9
	Puertas Abiertas	1	3	2	0	6
	Semillas de Paz	4	4	0	1	9
	Melquíades	0	2	3	1	6
	Nueva Vida	0	4	4	0	8
	Ágape	0	0	0	0	0
ICBF's Institutions	Red de Protección	2	0	0	0	2
Total		22	26	25	5	78

Children exiting from the protection Phase during the reporting quarter were 78, distributed almost equally in each of the possibilities: Half Way Homes, Family Reunification and Desertion. A smaller number of children, usually those older than 18, were transferred to the Ministry of the Interior's Social Reintegration Program. Children transferred to Half Way Houses (26) represent 33% out of the total 78. These children usually do not have the possibility to reunite with their families. 32% (25 children) were able to return with their families and 32% (22 children) deserted the Program in either two of its protection assistance institutions; their location is unknown.

c. Health

1. Physical Health



During the reporting period, Profamilia's project was implemented to its full extent. It began early September, giving sexual and reproductive educational workshops as well as access to health services; it ended on December 31st.

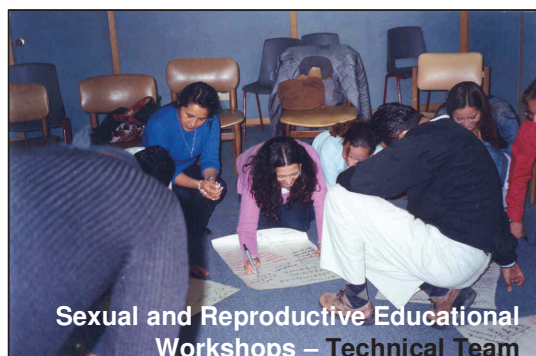
The educational workshops were carried out in each institution (Transit Homes, CAEs and Half Way Houses) and were given to the assisted children and the technical teams in charge of them. The subjects developed in each workshop addressed the children's imaginaries and conceptions on health, sexuality, STD's and other relevant topics. Personal attitudes, values, myths and fears relating to their sexuality were analyzed with the purpose of establishing ways in which teens and children assume, live and project their health and sexuality. The workshops were focused in giving orientation in how to deal with their sexuality, physical and mental health, within a quality-life and disease prevention framework.



While working with the children, special focus was given in how the children dealt with their bodies and both sexual and affective relationships. Orientation on gender equity was also given, due to the identification of a cultural pattern towards male chauvinism and women relegation, which were usually considered and treated as sexual objects.

A playful, dynamic and participative methodology was used, in order to keep the children's interest in the subjects addressed.

After each workshop, individual medical evaluations were carried out. Health brigades were sent to each house, and medical examinations were available for the children and youngsters who needed it or asked for it. To some degree, the Profamilia project has helped the institution restore the children's right to have access to health services.



Additionally, each institution continued using the health services provided by the public health institutions in their communities.

Table 10: Number of children that participated in PROFAMILIA's educational workshops and health brigades.

	Type of Institution	Nombre de la Institución	Octubre			Noviembre			Diciembre		
			F	M	Total	F	M	Total	F	M	Total
SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS	Transit Home	Luna	6	17	23	7	30	37	10	40	50
		José	8	13	21	8	23	31	8	24	32
	Specialized Assistance Center	Arco Iris	3	19	22	8	12	20	3	20	23
		Buendía	6	14	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
		La Bella	8	12	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Puertas Abiertas	6	10	16	4	11	15	0	0	0
		Semillas de Paz	5	12	17	16	38	54	0	0	0
		Melquíades	6	18	24	7	22	29	5	20	25
		Nueva Vida	4	10	14	4	7	11	0	0	0
	Half Way Homes	Rayuela	3	10	13	5	3	8	0	0	0
		Agarta	0	0	0	4	8	12	0	0	0
		Juan Bosco	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	9	13
	Total		55	135	190	63	154	217	30	113	143
	Technical Team	Cali	6	6	12	4	3	7	0	0	0
		Bucaramanga	16	4	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Antioquia	4	4	8	4	3	7	0	0	0
		Bogotá/Cundinamarca	16	4	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
HEALTH BRIGADES	Transit Home	Luna	11	32	43	6	19	25	5	20	25
		José	6	14	20	4	16	20	4	16	20
	Specialized Assistance Center	Arco Iris	0	0	0	2	21	23	0	0	0
		Buendía	7	13	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
		La Bella	8	12	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Puertas Abiertas	3	10	13	6	3	9	0	0	0
		Semillas de Paz	3	10	13	35	26	61	16	5	21
		Melquíades	6	18	24	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Nueva Vida	4	2	6	16	8	24	7	2	9
	Half Way Homes	Rayuela	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Agarta	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Juan Bosco	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Assisted in Profamilia		4	4	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total		52	115	167	69	93	162	32	43	75

2. Psychological Health

During this quarter, work meetings continued taking place between the various professionals working in the children's assistance. Mental health professionals have been constantly meeting with the technical teams for feedback on the psychological assistance given to former child soldiers. These meeting have initiated a constructive debate between the different institutions and professionals in charge of this area.

One of the identified needs is the importance of extending the individualized assistance to other areas outside the therapeutic component, complementing it with group therapy, where alternative ways of conflict resolution must be provided. This is why, during this quarter undertaken actions in each assistance area (education, occupational and recreational activities) have emphasized on the joint creation of recognition processes and life projections, both of these highly important aspects in the subjective construction of the children.

Additionally it has been possible to identify some of the logics relating to the attraction war has on children. The uniform's prestige, the feeling of belonging and being someone important and respected, are some of the motivations that attract children to join the armed groups. However, it is of vital importance that in each of the institutions an environment of trust and openness is provided for the child to be able to express and talk about his or her experiences before and during war. During therapy, the child's expression experiences are tied and articulated to other practices and realities of their young world; to a culture of respect and tolerance, to productive alternatives in which participation and autonomy, the exercise of his or her rights and responsibilities, are stimulated.

Experiences during their stay in the Program produce new attitudes, knowledge and behavior, which in turn is for his and her own benefit and their families and communities.

One of the most important effects participation in the armed groups has for the children is the total loss of the ability to think of themselves as individuals, with autonomy and freedom to decide. In contrast, life in the armed groups on actions and procedures that are subject to codes and vertical parameters already established.

Based on that logic, the therapeutic work has also tried to implement strategies that generate a legitimate place of participation, performance, and respect for the individuality; where their voices, experiences and affections are taken into account.

d. Education

This period was characterized by the ending of the school year on December. During the quarter, every child being assisted in the Specialized Assistance Centers (CAE) and the Half Way Houses, had access to formal education and/or vocational training.



At the end of the quarter, 76% of the children were studying in formal education institutions, outside the CAEs. The methodology implemented is based on accelerated education systems. The number of children, assisting schools increased significantly during the reporting quarter due to the hiring one pedagogue for each CAE in the previous quarter. These Pedagogues found appropriate nearby schools for the children's needs and aided in the registration procedures and required paperwork.

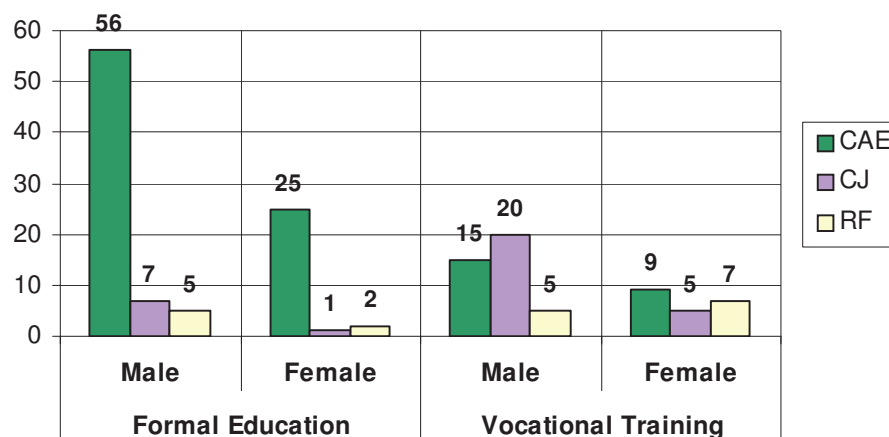
1. Educational Strategy⁶

The educational strategy contemplated the creation of two scholarship funds; one of them created with funds from the Education Ministry and managed by the Colombian Institute for Credits and Technical Studies Abroad (ICETEX), also in coordination with Colombian Institute for Family Welfare (ICBF); the other one, created with the Program's funds provided by USAID. This strategy was strengthened with the hiring of the pedagogues. Thanks to them, and to the collaboration of the CAEs' and Half Way Houses' technical teams, management actions were carried out with the private and public educational centers and with other NGOs nearby.

⁶ See Annex 6: Educational Strategy

2. Educational Reinforcement – Scholarship Program

Graph #12: Children in the Scholarship Program



Out of the 394 children assisted this year, 131 received scholarship for formal education or vocational training. According to the graph, a total of 157 scholarships have been given since the Scholarship fund was created. 26 children have received a mixed scholarship, which means that these children have benefited from a formal education and a vocational training scholarship at the same time, or in different moments. 105 scholarships were assigned for children in the Specialized Assistance Center CAEs, 33 for children in Half Way Houses and 19 for children in Family Reunifications. The regional distribution of the scholarships is greater in Bogotá and Cundinamarca, since it is in these regions where the greatest number of children is assisted.

Just as Graph #12 shows, out of the total of the scholarships assigned, 31% (49) have been for women and 69% (108) for men, which coincides with the Program's gender distribution tendencies: 30% women and 70% boys.

The Scholarship Fund ICBF-MEN-ICETEX gives priority to formal education for children assisted in the Specialized Assistance Center CAEs and in Half Way Houses. Some of the requirements are the children's identification documents and they must be under 18 years old. Due to this last requirement IOM's Scholarship Fund gives priority to the children in Family Reintegration, under or over 18 years old, but it also supports to those children in the Specialized Assistance Center, whose documentation is not complete (civil registration and/or ID card). During the reporting quarter 8 children that could not get scholarships from the GOC, accessed IOM's scholarships, while the Colombian Institute for Family Welfare ICBF worked on getting their legal documents.

54% of the children receiving scholarships are assisting high school, 6th grade being assisted by the greatest number of children. Girls have higher educational levels than boys: 56% of them are assisting high school compared to only 41% of the boys.

Graph #12 also shows that 56% of the scholarships given to the girls have been for formal education and the remaining 44% for vocational training courses. On the other hand, boys' scholarships are distributed as follows: 63% for formal education and the remaining 37% for vocational training courses. Girls usually have chosen tailoring courses, secretary and culinary courses. The most popular courses among boys were mechanical engineering and driving.

Among the children in social reintegration phase (Half Way Houses and Family Reencounters), 80% have chosen for an IOM scholarship in order to attend vocational training courses. This goes hand in hand with GOCs scholarships, since its scholarships are mainly for formal education. It also shows that children are usually concerned in attaining the necessary abilities to earn a living.

Although children benefiting from scholarships increased during the reporting quarter, the number of scholarships for children in Family Reunification (RF) continues being low: only 12 children, 7 of them accessing to a mixed scholarship (formal education and vocational training), for a total of 19 scholarships. 90 % of the scholarships for youths in Family Reunification were given in the Valley of Cauca- Cali (17 out of 19).

3. Educational Reinforcement – Pedagogues

The Educational Reinforcement project, aided by the hired pedagogues and in coordination with the of the CAEs' and Half Way Houses' technical teams, had among its achievements, the strengthening of the children's abilities and learning process. Additionally, the pedagogues participated in the building of an educational proposal in each center that meets ex-combatant children's special educational needs. It has also been a continuous process in the building of the Program's general educational proposal, which is based mostly on the gathered experience. Among, the team's other achievements, it is worth mentioning:

- Each center has contact with at least one formal education institution. The latter reflects that there has been a major effort in the regions to establish a formal education institution's portfolio. Some of the entities for non-formal education in the lists are: "Capacitación", "Actuar Famiempresas", "Floricultura del Oriente Antioqueño" and "Servicio Educativo Rural-SER in Medellín". In Bucaramanga the catholic group of the Somascos runs a vocational center to which the CAE and Half Way Homes send their children for vocational training. In Bogotá – Cundinamarca, CAE "Arco Iris" uses the institute "Capoeira" for sports activities and Fundación APOYO for vocational training. Also, in almost each portfolio list of libraries and the cultural institutions is included.
- The follow up on the information obtained on learnt lessons in the pedagogical work shows positive results relating to a more positive attitude from the children towards the educational process. There is a better understanding on behalf of the children on their right to education, which in turn shows a greater motivation to continue their life project, including their studies – formal as well as non formal. They take more advantage of the time lived in the program. These changes also reflect changes in methodologies in the teaching process, taking more into consideration the individual process of each child. Additionally, there is a more realistic consideration of the program's time frame, seen from a pedagogical as well as a financial point of view; technical teams are being careful not to create false expectations.
- A behavior change in the children is noticeable at an individual as well as collective level. Compared to life in armed groups, the Program tries to provide a more personalized assistance that revolves around the child's personal needs and interests, teaching respect for others and the need of basic rules. The technical team at the centers carries out an intensive day-to-day work.
- Based on the experiences with the children in the centers, a first draft has been elaborated for the desired child profile when exiting the Program's phases. The categories used are the following: self esteem, social attitudes, positive attitude towards education, concern about his/her rights and responsibilities, knowledge and academic abilities, self management, autonomy levels, among others.
- As a result of the pedagogical work carried out during the precious quarter, each center in the Program now has more elaborated pedagogic model, and the permanent personnel are trained in the new modalities, especially on the procedures for the scholarship program.

e. Income Generation and Employment

1. Strategy⁷



During this semester IOM has been studying the design of an income generation strategy. Defined as a productive insertion and employment, the strategy has two main objectives: 1.) the construction of a successful insertion process; 2.), to generate solutions of sustainable productive insertion articulated to competitive activities. The strategy is based on the construction of a basic model so-called, “Sustainable Insertion on Target Sectors”, which relies on:

- Human talent
- Income generation sectors selected for the insertion process.
- Conditions to access the markets, to change the distortions the war has generated in the participation of ex-combatants workmanship.
- Conditions to guarantee the stability and sustainability of the model.

In the defined sectors the goal will be to move forward to agreements with representative guilds or directly with the enterprises with the finality to guarantee the existence of productive spaces in which there can be trained using the learning by doing approach. The own requirements of each job, will determine the emphasis of the training for each youth based on his/hers academic profile and skills.

In the same way, the outcome of the strategy is associated to the existence of the conditions that favor access to the markets as a compensation mechanism. The process to build businessmen net requires time to be fully developed. It is also necessary the institutional support to consolidate an effective response to the needs for productive insertion of the Ex-combatant Children and the compromise of the GOC in the development of the legal and institutional support that guarantee the continuity of the actions implemented by the Program.

During this quarter some negotiations have been made to link to the Program the following target sectors: Shoes manufacturing (project being formulated), furniture and wooden products (project being formulated), Jewelry (project being implemented) and Services (a project in formulation) through the development of specific projects with an extended impact with regard of joining a major number of youth by project and to guarantee the continuity in the training and income generation process.

With the same focus but with less coverage, some initiatives in the handwork and Automobile technical service sectors are being evaluated.

⁷ See Annex 7: Income Generation and Employment Strategy

2. Projects incubation with vocational focus in pre- operating stage

Concurrently with the development of the basic model, we work a complementary action line where the projects have vocational functions, on the job training and development of productive initiatives simultaneously. Over this action line, had been developed projects like: Bakery, Pizzeria, craftsmanship and services (restaurant and cultural café), currently being reformulated in order for it to be implemented in Cundinamarca.

These projects, incubated during the Half Way Houses stage, are looking for an additional objective: Approximate youngsters to the reality of the implementation of an income generation project. We believe this process can be started before they arrive to these houses. These approaches will improve the development of the vocational process, also an orientation about the management of alternatives for income generation activities.

The model keeps the alternative to develop income generation activities on sectors not included in those already defined as the target sectors of the Program. This could happen if all the projects prove they are feasible and sustainable and can solve the income needs of the youngsters and can be executed by associative models or strengthen the families' nucleus.

With the *Fundación Apoyo* and funded by the Investment for Peace Fund (FIP, by its Spanish initials) a pre-cooperative had been created in Bogotá CAEs Arco Iris, Buendía, Melquíades y La Bella, are the partners. Youngsters have been trained and produce cleaning products, candles and bakery products.

f. **Legal Component**

1. Identification Documents

At a national level the Program has emphasized the protection component of the assisting children protection, through the rights restitution, among them the right to have a name and a nationality. As part of the institutional strengthening strategy, 4 lawyers were hired in order to assist the ICBF's Family Lawyers in the process of acquiring the children's identification documents (civil register, ID card for children under or over 18 years old).

Table #11: Children with Identification Documents

Type of Institution	Name of Institution	# of Children with ID
Transit Home	Luna	13
	José	10
Specialized Assistance Center	Arco Iris	14
	Benposta	10
	Buendía	13
	La Bella	15
	Puertas Abiertas	16
	Semillas de Paz	11
	Melquíades	13
	Nueva Vida	17
	Ágape	11
Total		143

During the reporting quarter, 143 civil registrations were attained. The acquirement of these documents facilitates the children's registration in educational and health institutions among others.

The process of getting the necessary identification documents begins since the child's arrival to the Program.

2. Status of Prosecution Cases

One of the most important aspects of Ex-combatant Children's situation is the state of his or her legal process. This is related with the type of demobilization: voluntary, captured or turned in by an armed group. The legal process also depends on the judge's declaration, which before opening a prosecution case can ask for an investigation to be opened in order to find evidence to help him determine the type of violations committed by the former child soldier.

After the preliminary investigation the judge can choose for:

- Not opening an investigation, in which case the child is handed over to a Family Lawyer, who has the task of opening protection administrative process, or
- Opening an investigation and dictate a measure for institutional placement in the Specialized Assistance Program for Ex-combatant Children.
- If the child demobilized voluntarily, the judge must remit the child to the Demobilization Operative Committee (CODA). This Committee verifies his voluntary demobilization, in which case it will remit to the judge a certification to accredit the socio-economic benefits that he/she has right to.
- Once the judge closes the prosecution case, and if the child's security is considered to be at stake, the judge will remit the child to an ICBF's Family Lawyer, for his or her placement in the Support Program for Ex-combatant Children.

Nevertheless, the evaluation report provided by the CAEs' technical team where the child is being assisted, can influence the judges decision on closing or not his or her prosecution case.

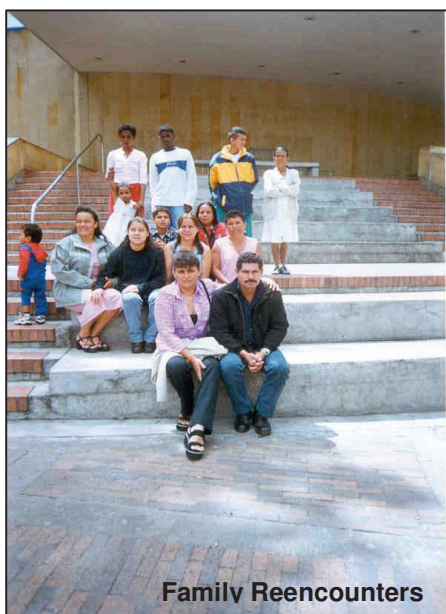
Table #12: Status of Prosecution Cases⁸

Department	# of Children with Open Prosecution Cases	# of Children with Closed Prosecution Cases
Cundinamarca	32	13
Santander	39	4
Valle	19	7
Antioquia	15	7
Total	105	31

⁸The data on table #12 does not include the Prosecution Cases of two institutions in charge of ICBF's Regional Office in Bogotá.

g. Socio-cultural Component

1. Family Reencounters



Former child soldiers' families live immersed in an armed conflict dynamic, which influences the child's development. The Program has begun implementing the Family Reencounters' strategy. These brief meetings, of two or three days, explore the possibility of the child's return to his/her family, evaluating the family's social, economic and affective situation.

One of the main achievements and positive results of this strategy is the reestablishment of the communication between the child and his or her relatives. Many of the families have not seen their children for 3 or 4 years, many have no knowledge on their child's situation, if he or she is alive or dead.

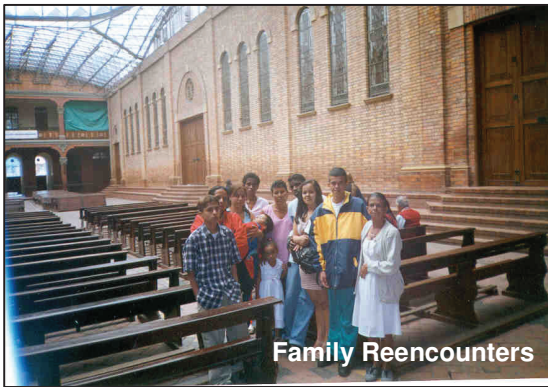
During the reporting quarter, all the planned Family Reencounters were carried out in all the regions where the children are being assisted. Family Reunifications were specially carried out for those families with low incomes and for whom traveling was not possible.

Table # 13: Participation in Family Reencounters

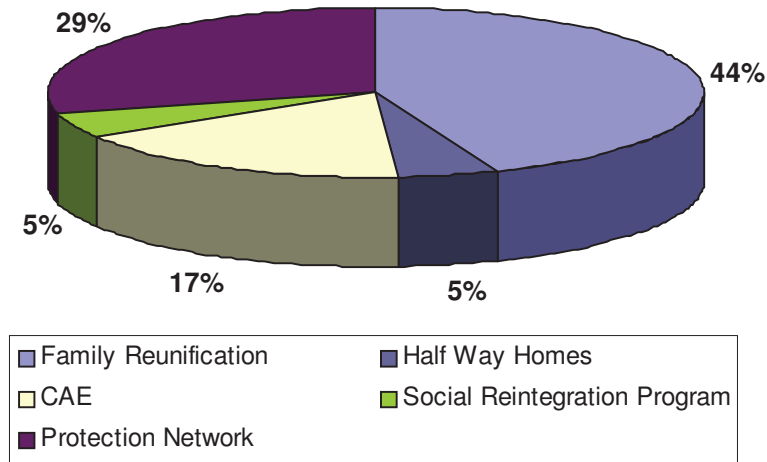
Department	Specialized Assistance Center	Children	Relatives
Cundinamarca	Buendía	5	9
	La Bella	11	20
	Melquíades	8	16
Bogotá	Arco Iris	12	32
Bucaramanga	Semillas de Paz	14	34
Valle	Puerta Abiertas	11	25
Medellín	Nueva Vida	3	7
Total		64	143

A total of 64 Family Encounters were carried out from October through December. Children from all the regions where the Program is giving assistance participated in these Reencounters, except children from Quindío, since this Specialized Assistance Center was opened at the end of December. These meetings were organized and carried out by ICBF's regional offices, supported by the CAEs and the personnel hired in charge of that area.

Specialized Assistance Center "Semillas de Paz", "Arco Iris", "Puertas Abiertas" and "La Bella", had the greatest participation in these meetings. For each child, an average of 2.5 relatives participated.



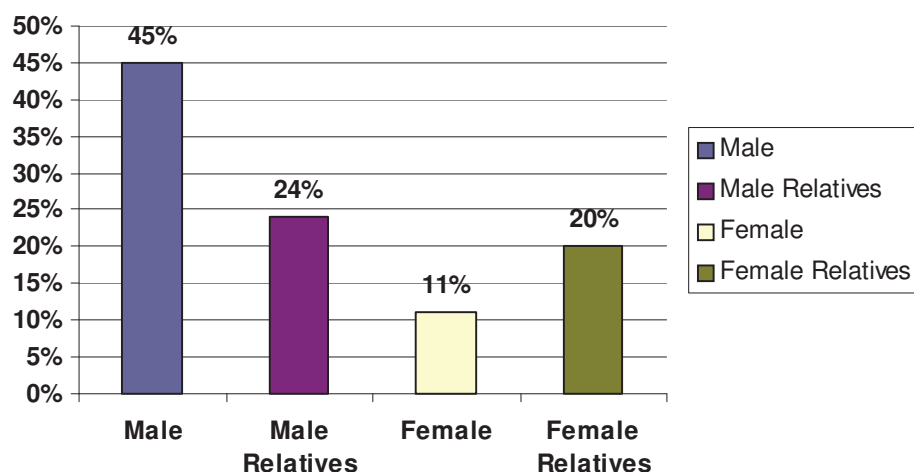
Graph #12: Possible Scenarios after Family Reencounters.



As the graph above shows, out of the 64 children that had Family reencounters, only 44% have the possibility of Family Reunification as a Social Reintegration Alternative. 29% of the children will have to be placed in the Protection Network.

Even though many families find themselves in the middle of the armed conflict and experience precarious social situations, there are other criteria to consider (e.g. the child's affective relationship with his or her family).

Graph #13: Family Reencounters' Participation by Gender.



The greatest participation during Family Reencounters was of women relatives (45%); which doubles the male relatives participation. Boys' participation was greater than girls.

Table #14: Department of Origin - Participating Families

DEPARTMENTS OF RELATIVES' ORIGIN	DEPARTMENTS WHERE THE FAMILY REENCOUNTERS WERE CARRIED OUT				
	Cundinamarca	Bogotá	Valle	Santander	Medellín
Cauca	4	0	9	0	0
Sucre	0	0	2	0	0
Tolima	2	5	5	0	0
Antioquia	8	7	3	2	3
Caldas	2	0	2	0	0
Valle	0	1	2	0	2
Nariño	0	0	2	0	0
Meta	6	5	0	0	0
Bolivar	2	0	0	0	0
Vichada	1	0	0	0	0
Putumayo	2	2	0	3	0
Cundimarca	4	4	0	3	0
Arauca	2	6	0	3	2
Cesar	2	0	0	1	0
Santander	3	0	0	9	0
Boyacá	3	0	0	0	0
Nte. Santander	2	0	0	2	0
Caquetá	2	0	0	4	0
Magdalena	0	0	0	2	0
Casanare	0	0	0	3	0
Huila	0	2	0	2	0
Totales	45	32	25	34	7

The table shows how most of the families that participated in the Family Reencounters came mostly from Antioquia, Cauca, Arauca y Santander.

3. Monitoring and Evaluating System Design

Since the Program's beginning, IOM as well as USAID considered the need to design and implement a *Monitoring and Evaluation System (SM&E)* able, among other things to: i) help to evaluate if the program is being implemented according to the Agreement Grant, ii) allow a continuous feedback between the Program's executing/coordinating team in order to have relevant information on the its advances as well as on the emerging difficulties, iii) contribute to the adjustments or reorientation of the activities needed for the optimum use of the Program's resources, and iv) identify the aspects needed to be considered for ICBF's appropriation of the Program's total coordination and implementation.

Considering the above, IOM hired during the first quarter of 2002 a consultant for the design of the SM&E, which had significant advances. On November another consultant was hired for the finishing of the SM&E design, fulfilling with the parameters and criterions jointly defined by the participating entities.

The importance of the Monitoring and Evaluation System is:

- SM&E helps highlight the differences between the Agreement Grant Plan and what is being or what has been implemented or executed.
- SM&E helps promote transparency and public responsibility.
- And it also enables the Program to generate knowledge, which in turn can be applied in the best interests of the beneficiaries.

Up until now, the Monitoring and Evaluation System has developed the following activities:

Bibliographic Research: During this phase, documents related to the Program's target population, its components, guidelines, achievements and difficulties were read and studied, in order to have a deeper understanding of its present state.

Elaboration of the Program's Logic Framework: The Program's Logic Framework constitutes a useful tool for its evaluation. Its purpose is to communicate the Program's essential information and to establish an initial platform for the comparison between what was planned and what has been implemented.

Institutional Approach: During this phase, interviews with the people responsible of designing and executing the Program were carried out, among them representatives from OIM, ICBF, and the Human Rights Ombudsman Office. Additionally, work meetings were held with the first consultant in charge of designing SM&E. Finally, project visits have been carried out to the various institutions involved in the assistance to Ex-combatant children, such as Puertas Abiertas, Transit Home Luna and Macondo Corporation.

Elaboration/Definition of the SM&E's Indicators and Methodology: With the development of the three initial phases, above mentioned, the consultant has been able to create a more concrete idea of the program, particularly in its first component, which has lead to the design of a database that includes the child's individual information, organized as shown in the next table.

Table #16: Matrix of Database

Phases in the child's life/ phases in the Program	General Characterization	Before Recruitment	Participation in Armed Groups	After Demobilization and Before the Program	While in the Program
Transit Home					
Specialized Assistance Center					
Half Way homes					
After the Program					

This database will permit to have complete information on each child's the development during his stay in the Program, and it will provide useful information for the Program to monitor his or her rights restitution and get ideas for future recruitment prevention projects.

At the same time the database for the individual information on the child is being built, another database is being worked on, for information on the implementing agencies, in order to enable the carrying out of regular follow-ups on the assistance given. Both databases are oriented for an improvement on the quality standards of the assistance and services provided.

Subsequently, the information entered in the databases will be analyzed according to four indicators of *management, product, results and impact*. The *management* indicator (for the child's rights restitution) will be analyzed across the three phases. The indicators proposal will be presented to IOM and ICBF, in order to attain feedback on needed adjustments. Work will be complemented and finalized with feedback on the tool kit (or forms and other mechanisms for the gathering of information). The design is of the SM&E is expected to be completed on February 2003.

4. Following Project with Human Rights Ombudsman Office

As part of ICBF's strengthening for the children's rights restitution, during the reporting quarter an Agreement between Human Rights Ombudsman and IOM was designed and signed. The Agreement considers the implementation of the "Follow-up System for Ex-combatant Children".

The Agreement's objectives are: i) Evaluate and analyze the Legal Route's level of application in 200 prosecution cases; ii) evaluate and analyze the fulfillment level of 200 security measures that have been declared by judges or Family Lawyers for ex-combatant children placed in the Support Program or assisted in the Social Reintegration Program managed by the Ministry of the Interior; iii) Follow-up of 50 cases of former child soldiers in Family Reunification; iv) Identification of ex-combatant children which have not received the protection measure for their placement in the Specialized Assistance Program.

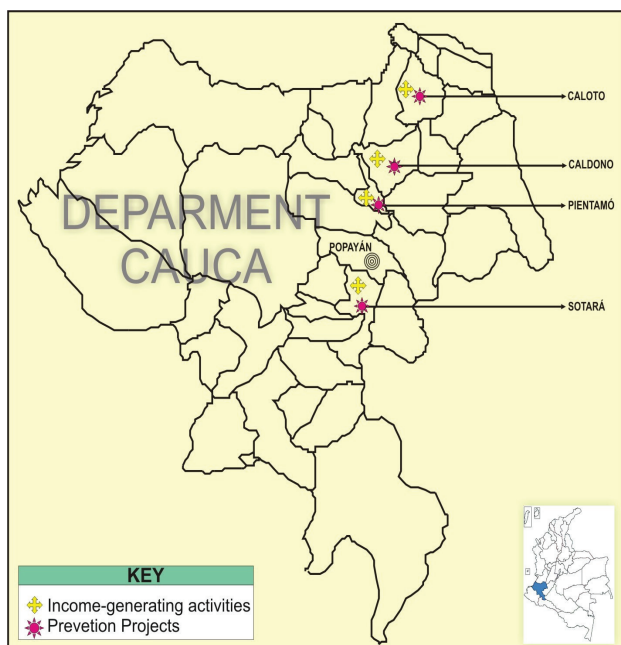
During the December, a team of 2 lawyers, 2 Social Workers, 1 administrative assistant and 1 Project Coordinator were hired. This team has carried out the following activities: bibliographic research, choosing and designing methodologies and elaborating the instruments necessary for the follow-up system.

VI. SUPPORT TO INDIGENOUS AND AFRO-COLOMBIAN EXCOMBATANT CHILDREN

a. Cauca⁹

1. Facts on Armed conflict and child recruitment in Cauca

Map #2: Prevention and Assistance / Social Reintegration Projects in Cauca



The department of Cauca has a territorial extension of 29.308 kms², which is divided in 41 municipalities, which in turn are grouped in six regions: North, Middle, South, Macizo, Bota Cauca, Western and Pacific. Its population is of 1.277.128, of which 63% live in the rural area. Cauca is characterized for being a multiethnic and culturally diverse department; 23.49% of its people are indigenous.

The department's economy is primarily based on the agriculture of traditional crops. However, in impoverished areas, subsistence is based on harvesting illicit crops. In 2001, 11.3% of Cauca's population was in misery. (Coyuntura Social Departamental, Boletín No. 29, SISD- DNP 2000, pg 17)

As other departments of the Southwestern part of Colombia, the Cauca region is not a stranger to the armed conflict and its consequences, which among others are forced displacement and recruitment of children by armed groups.

In order to understand the conflict's dynamics in Cauca, some characteristic aspects of this department must be taken into account:

- On account of an unequal land distribution, Cauca has been witness to land ownership conflicts, especially in areas where indigenous communities are fighting for the recovery of the land of their ancestors.
- The presence of drug-traffic has been linked to the areas where there are illicit crops harvest, especially in the areas of the Macizo Colombiano and the Bota Cauca. These two, are also areas that serve as drug commercialization centers and strategic corridors.
- Cauca, also counts with the presence of strong organizations and autonomous social movements who have confronted the armed groups on various occasions.

Additionally, its strategic geographical position has favored the various armed groups' presence, such as FARC, AUC, ELN, Bateman Cayón, M19 and Quintín Lame; these last two groups have already disarmed and demobilized. AUC presence began during the mid nineties; to date they control most of the region.

⁹ See Annex 5: Project Cards

a) *Training and Awareness Raising Workshops*



The five-month period of Awareness Raising and Training Workshops in the 4 communities (Río Blanco, Guachené, Caldono y la María), ended during this quarter. These workshops had two main objectives: 1) to offer the necessary tools to empower the children and youngsters of these communities with political critical thinking, oriented towards an active participation in peace building. 2.) to create a pedagogical strategy which allows teachers to approach education promoting alternative ways to conflict resolution and human right's promotion.



These workshops benefited 452 children and were given on the following themes: Armed Conflict Analysis, Human Rights, International Humanitarian Law and Tools for Building a Peace Culture. In total, 152 workshops were carried out and are distributed as follows:

Table #17: Awareness Raising and Training Workshops

Date	Community	Workshops	Hrs.
July - Sept.	Río Blanco	4	96
	Guachené	4	96
	Caldono	4	96
	La María	4	96
Sub-Total		16	384
Oct. - Dec.	Río Blanco	8	192
	Guachené	8	192
	Caldono	8	192
	La María	8	192
Sub-Total		32	768
Total		48	1152

Among the achievements it is worth mentioning the active participation and interest shown by the children in each workshop. This was probably due to the fact that besides being an awareness raising strategy, the workshops, also served as a space for the exchange of opinions and for the expression of ideas on fears and hopes for the future. Additionally, these workshops have served as method for community integration.

As a closing activity and among the activities programmed the children got together in an integration event. The main objective of this event was to exchange ideas and experiences to find and expose a common ground despite cultural differences and from these generate proposals for future projects to prevent recruitment and participation of former child soldiers.

The event was carried out in La María, where approximately 300 children from the 4 beneficiary communities participated. It lasted for 4 days, during which a combination of cultural activities and working tables on relevant themes, were carried out and discussed respectively. At the end of the event, the children presented their proposals regarding community, political, economic and educational issues. (See Annex)



b) *Education for Peace*

Based on the information gathered on the 52 workshops carried out in the 4 beneficiary communities, the drafting phase for the educational proposal has begun. In the original Grant, the design of an educational curriculum for peace was agreed. This activity has been changed to create an educational module instead. The module will include themes such as cultural identity, human rights, conflict resolution, participation and leadership. To that purpose, 3 work meetings with the Department of Cauca's Secretary of Education and experts on themes related with education for peace, have been carried out, in order to show the preliminary draft and acquire orientation on which steps to follow for its completion and validation.

c) *Indigenous Demobilization Route*¹⁰

In the beginning, the need to implement a project with indigenous minorities was detected given the evidence found that indigenous child soldiers who were demobilizing, were returning straight to their communities of origin. The latter is due to the fact that indigenous groups in Colombia have a special jurisdiction where the head of the government is the *Cabildo*.

Due to their unique family, social, cultural and legal standing experienced by indigenous ex-combatant children, the program saw the need to create an Indigenous Demobilization Route, to identify procedures that are followed by the *Cabildos* as part of the social reintegration of ex-combatant indigenous children to their communities of origin.

¹⁰ See Annex 8: Indigenous Demobilization Route

During the quarter, a consultant was hired to gather the information on indigenous regulations and on the types of demobilization experienced by ex-combatant children present in the 4 beneficiary communities, and also to prepare a draft of the Indigenous Demobilization Route.

Once the first draft of the Indigenous Demobilization Route was finished, a series of meetings with different public officials from the department of Cauca and one seminar with members of ICBF, human Right's Ombudsman and other members of Cauca's *Cabildos* were carried out.

Based on the feedback gotten during these gatherings, a revised version of the Indigenous Demobilization Route was later presented in a Workshop with members of the National Organization of Indigenous People (ONIC). The guest list for this workshop included among others, 10 representatives of ten different indigenous communities from various country regions. During the 2 days, which lasted the workshop, 2 general, themes were discussed: Recruitment of children in Indigenous communities and ideas for prevention; 2.) "Indigenous Legal Route" based on the specific Indigenous legislation of each community. The main conclusion that can be drawn from the workshop is that although the indigenous organizations are interested in working out a common Demobilization Route, a great diversity of the ethnic groups make it a real challenge to have an instrument applicable nationwide.

The Program is considering redefining its future actions in order whether to decide or not to face this challenge. Among the new strategies that might be considered one is the combination of efforts with the ONIC for the completion and future dissemination of the Demobilization Route, so it can become a national tool for ex-combatant Indigenous children. Additionally, it will be necessary to train and to perform awareness-raising activities in the various indigenous communities to assure effectiveness in its applicability.

3. Assistance / Social Reintegration

a) *Health Services*



Under the USAID-Profamilia agreement, the first contacts were initiated during the last-quarter in the beneficiary communities, for the start of the educational activities and access to reproductive health services. During the months of November and December, a reproductive and sexual educational workshop of 20 hours was carried out in each of the 4 communities. However, since the number of ex-combatant children in each community was less than the adequate number for each workshop, children in high

risk of being recruited, who were beneficiaries of the prevention component, were included. These children have the additional task of multiplying in their schools what they learned at the workshop. Additionally, an outreach health campaign went to each community where general health evaluations and reproductive planning consultations were given. In these health campaigns, only ex-combatant children were assisted.

b) *Income Generation Activities*



During the reporting quarter work continued for the development of the 3 initial income-generation activities: blackberries harvest, hens and a music & dance group. In general, advances were made in the delivery of all the materials needed each of the project's functioning. Additionally, 4 new projects were approved and its implementation launched during this quarter. Up to now, training has begun for each of the children involved in the projects.

On the other hand, a revolving fund proposal, adapted to the department of Cauca and the children's possibilities, has been designed and discussed with the beneficiaries of three first income-generation activities.

b. Chocó¹¹

1. Facts on Armed Conflict and child recruitment in Chocó

Map #3: Prevention and Assistance / Social Reintegration Projects in Chocó



Chocó has a territorial extension of 46.530 Km² and with a population of approximately 347.561. Just as Department of Cauca, Chocó is multiethnic and culturally diverse. Due to the fact that this department is the region with most biodiversity, the local economy is base on the exploitation of the many natural resources. Fishing and the wood logging industry are the main income generation income activities; the exploitation of platinum, gold and silver are also important income generating activities.

In spite of its natural resources wealth, the department of Chocó, is one of the regions with less presence of the GOC. For example, in the city, Quibdó, only 10.000 habitants have access to sewage systems, out of 200.000 inhabitants; only 5 municipalities, out of 32 have electricity and child mortality goes up to 117 children for each 1000.

¹¹ See Annex 5: Project Cards

Among the specific objectives are:

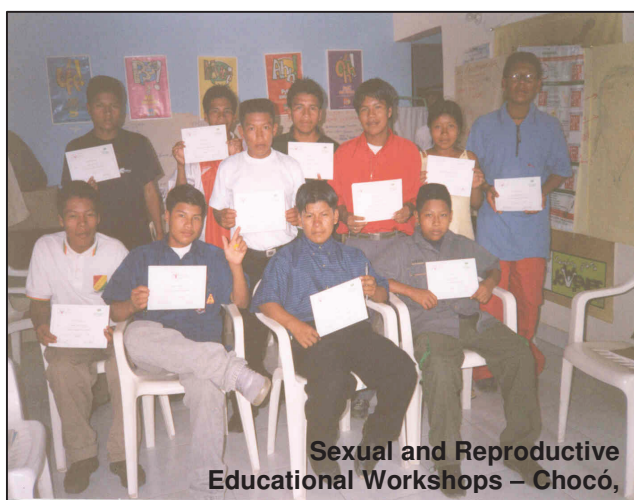
- Carrying out an educational program with young leaders in the communities of Zabaleta, Puria, El Consuelo y El 21, including themes such as Human Rights, Indigenous legislation and cultural identity in order to strengthen the already existing organizations in the region.
- Develop two income-generation activities with 13 ex-combatant children in the indigenous community of Chamí de Zabaleta, in order to prevent re-recruitment.
- Development of a diagnosis on risk and recruitment of children in two Afro-Colombian communities, Istmina y Tadó, and develop prevention strategies for future projects.

It was until this quarter that part of the prevention activities could be finally launched. Before the end of the quarter a representative from the human Rights Ombudsman Office was hired to lead the workshops on Human Rights, International Humanitarian Law and Indigenous and Afro-Colombian Legislation. Additionally, office endowment was given to the Human Rights Ombudsman Regional Office in Quibdó. Endowment included one computer, office furniture and communication equipment.

Due to security reasons and the difficult situation being lived during this past few months in Chocó, described above, the workshops planned could not be carried out according to the activities schedule. Up until now, a workshop of 6 hours has been carried out. 12 youngsters participated from 15 communities (approximately 160 youngsters), from the four beneficiary communities. This workshop was carried out taking advantage of a juvenile encounter organized by the Catholic church from the Indigenous Reserve 18.

3. Advances in the Assistance /Social Reintegration

a.) *Health Services*



During the reporting quarter and under the Agreement between Profamilia-USAID, an educational workshop on sexual and reproductive health was carried out in the city of Quibdó with 16 ex-combatant children and children in high-risk of recruitment. It lasted 4 days for a total of 20 hours training. Thank to the implemented methodology, the workshop became a space where the participating children exchanged opinions, ideas and knowledge relevant to the theme; Videos and didactic materials were used.

Following the workshop, the children had each a general health evaluation and laboratory exams in the cases that were judged necessary. Additionally, all 16 children had an blood identification exam and they were given the respective identification blood card.

At the end, Profamilia gave each child a Participation Certificate.

b.) Income Generation Activities

In the project design, two income-generation activities were included; *Panela* (brown sugar) production and Pig Breeding. For the *Panela* production, the community already had a grinding machine. The project's support is mainly for the workplace construction and endowment of other necessary equipment. These two projects will be developed in Zabaleta village, hoping they will leave a positive impact on other high-risk children and the community as a whole.

However, up until now the development of these two projects has had many obstacles, due to the lack of coordination between the OREWA representatives and the members of the *Cabildo* and due to the presence of armed groups in the region. Currently, coordination is being worked out with all the parties involved in order to consider a re-design of the income-generation activities.

VII. PREVENTION

a. Strategies

As mentioned on the previous quarter, the prevention component was not initially part of the IOM-USAID Grant Agreement. However, the evolution and lessons learned during the implementation of the Program highlighted the need to design a strategy for this area. Based on the information given by the Program's database and the accumulated experience of the past 21 months, a series of prevention strategies were designed, which were presented and formalized before USAID during the month of October.

The general objective is to support the GOC and the social networks, at a central and regional level, in order to prevent child recruitment into armed groups, in order to decrease children's participation in the armed conflict, through the development of projects implemented in the geographical areas that show the highest rates of recruitment and in areas with ethnic minorities.

The specific objectives of the strategy are:

- Strengthen social networks and GOC agencies that are implementing recruitment prevention projects.
- Develop pilot prevention projects in the identified high-risk recruitment zones.
- Develop prevention strategies which target the detected main causes for children's recruitment: child abuse, lack of access to education low education quality, non existing income-generation opportunities, weak public policy on childhood and Children's Rights, lack of information on children's rights.

The Prevention strategy will be implemented in the 8 departments and 13 municipalities identified by the analysis of the database and in the regions where IOM has presence.

b. Implementation Advances

Advances in the prevention strategy have been limited because the possibility of a massive demobilization during the month of December, led us to transfer funds that we appropriated for Prevention to the Contingency Plan. In other words, during the reporting quarter this component suffered a brief pause. However, up until two projects have begun:

An Agreement will be signed with the Women's Popular Organization (OFP, by its Spanish initials) in Barrancabermeja, for the running of a Students' Cafeteria in the Colegio Mixto Municipal Camilo Torres Restrepo. The projects main objective is to provide students from poor communities with an affordable meal in order to prevent school desertion and in turn prevent their recruitment into armed groups. Up until now the project is still in the formalization phase. Also, co-financing is being searched for.

The second project is related to the awareness raising strategy. On December, 2 professionals were hired for the design of a awareness raising radio campaign on the impact of children's participation in war, child abuse, school desertion, conflict resolution and other sensitization themes.

VIII. INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

a. Legal Route

Since this year's first quarter, when the Legal Route was first published, up until December 31, 2002, a series of workshops and seminars have been carried out, aiming to disseminate ex-combatant children's rights and to motivate new proposals for the improvement of the existing Legal framework for these children. At the end of 2002, achievements from the training workshops and awareness raising seminars, are summarized in the table below:

Table #18: Legal Route Dissemination

Implementing Agency	Target Population	# of Cities	# of Beneficiaries
Human Rights Ombudsman Office	Public Ministry Officials	33	935
SCUK	Community Leaders	6	95
ICBF	Military Personnel – Judges and Family Lawyers	6	200
Total			1,230

1. Human Rights Ombudsman Office

IOM's-Human Rights Ombudsman Office Agreement for the implementation of the project "Legal Route diffusion and training to Public Ministry Officials" ended during the reporting quarter. A total of 935 Public ministry officials in 33 cities were trained.

Among the qualitative achievements it is worth mentioning that the legal Route proved to be a useful tool, which offers a different view on child soldiers from juveniles delinquents to victims of the armed conflict. Additionally it served as a training instrument for Public Ministry officials on the national and international legal framework for the protection of former child soldiers.



Training Workshop on the “Legal Route” - Popayán

However, its applicability was also questioned on various occasions, since frequently Public Ministry Officials do not have the transportation and communication resources necessary for its implementation. On the other hand, many Public Ministry Officials displayed a lack of knowledge on Children’s Rights and International Humanitarian Law.

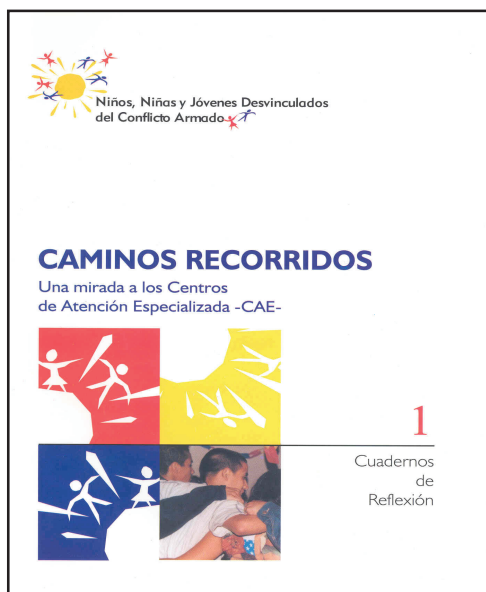
Relating to the workshop multiplication proposal, there is great difficulty in the majority of the regions to commit for the Legal Route’s future dissemination, due to the armed conflict’s intensification.

In the prevention component, the workshops aimed at gathering proposals for future projects. As a result, participant identified as key actors the family, the school, the ICBF and the Public Ministry. However, a passive attitude was reflected when asked to define strategies or actions; answer were usually thought that had to come from the GOC but there was no clarity on how, with whom or with what.

2. SCUK

During the reporting quarter SCUK carried out one awareness raising and training on the Legal Route workshop in Barrancabermeja. 15 members of different NGO’s and community leaders assisted.

b. Publications



The Support Program for Ex-combatant Children is one of the few programs worldwide being implemented during armed conflict. Therefore, the systematization of the knowledge gathered from the experience is of vital importance, both at a national and international level.

Added to the list of publications and documents already written, during this quarter the first diagnosis on the ICBF’s Program advanced experience on the assistance to Ex-combatant Children was published. Additionally, the “Children of the War” book was published on November, written by Guillermo González and which won the Planet Award. The Program financially supported this book during its investigation phase.

Table #19: Publications' List

Title	Authors	Description	N° copies	Language	Year
Guerreros sin Sombra	Miguel Álvarez y Julián Aguirre	The most vulnerable population during armed conflict are women and children. Child soldiers are not new in Colombia's armed conflict, however there is little knowledge on the causes and effects of this social issue. Shadowless Warriors is the first attempt to understand the consequences of armed conflict on the Colombian children and especially on child soldiers. This book is based on a research done on 2000, in the departments of Bogotá, Medellín and in the municipalities of Eastern Antioquia, Caquetá y Meta. It includes aspects such as recruitment strategies, voluntary recruitment motivations, life during participation in armed groups, demobilization and impacts on the child's growth.	500	Spanish	2002
Legal Route: Legal Procedures to Follow for Excombatant Children	ICBF, IOM, SCUK y Human Rights Ombudsman Office	Legal Route is based on a study and analysis on the legal situation of ex-combatant children. But above all, it is an instrument, which outlines the legal procedures, to follow for the protection and assistance measures that must be taken whether it is voluntary demobilization, by negotiation or by capture. The Legal Route emerges amidst a social, political and legal environment marked by intensification in the armed conflict, were the increase of children's participation in armed groups is the tendency. Its also an answer/possibility for former child soldiers to gain their rights' restitution in a country where there is no specific legal framework for their situation.	3500	Spanish	2002
Armed Conflict, Children and Youth: a psychosocial perspective	Bello, Martha Nubia y Ruiz Ceballos, Sandra, editoras	This book comprises 26 articles, which analyze children's participation in the Colombian armed conflict. The articles reflect the different perspectives that arise from the different academic views on the impact for Colombia's youth. It also reflects the different points of view of the different entities (national and international) that have been working in this area for many years.		Spanish	2002
Traveled Roads	IOM, ICBF y SCUK	Traveled Roads is a preliminary study on the assistance provided in the Specialized Assistance Centers for Ex-combatant Children by the ICBF, before the launching of the Agreement Grant between IOM-ICBF-SCUK, financed by USAID.	1000	Spanish	2002

Apart from the already published investigations, the Program has a series of documents, which are in the editing process for their future publication, such as a Study on the Families of Ex-combatant Children, Cauca's Education Module, the Indigenous Demobilization Route and the Programs' Booklet.

c. Cinemateca Distrital

Aiming at diffusing information on children victims of the armed conflict, during the previous quarter the "Sons of the Fire" project was designed together with the Cinemateca Distrital. This project will support the filming and distribution of a short film and a documentary.

The Agreement between IOM and Cinemateca was developed and signed during the reporting quarter. From August 29th through October 14th proposals were received. On November 14th, a group of three jurists chose the winners: for the short film the “Lúdica Macábrica” proposal won, while for the documentary the winner was “Cico para Todos”



An award ceremony was organized during the second week of December. To it, assisted representatives from ICBF, Human Rights Ombudsman Office, USAID, Save the Children, UNICEF, among others. A winning certificate was given to each of the winners during the ceremony.

An Agreement has already been signed with Corporación Nuevo Cine Latinoamericano, the legal entity representing the “Lúdica Macábrica” proposal. Filming started during the third week of December. Its edition will be done in Argentina during the next quarter.

Filming of the documentary will begin the first week of January 2003.

d. Universidad de los Andes

Under the Agreement between Andes University and IOM, the first Annual Forum on “Children and Armed Conflict: from demobilization to Protecting Children’s Rights”, was carried out on October 15th.

Before the event the following activities were done:

- Definition of the agenda, the guest list and the national and international exponents.
- Design and distribution of the forum’s pamphlet and information dissemination on the event among the national newspapers and entities working with children and armed conflict



The guest list was composed mainly of NGO representatives, State entities such as ICBF, Social Welfare Administrative Bureau (DABS), Family and Child Lawyers and members of Law, Social Work and Psychology Faculties.

The Forum became a space for interchange of the different existing points of view on the assistance to ex-combatant children and other children affected by violence and the actual social and political context.

Additionally an international exponent was invited; Dr. García Méndez, explored the “Political considerations for the assistance of juvenile delinquents in Latin America”

The Forum had a total of 202 participants.

An extension on the Agreement was decided, in order to give more time for the publication of the Forum’s memoirs, which will be ready on February 28th, 2003. .

IX. LESSONS LEARNED

Being a Program in permanent build-up, starting-off new strategies also causes new training and lessons to be permanently learned. Worth mentioning during this quarter are the following:

- Vocational training is one of the instruments with a greater impact in the immediate future of the youth. It facilitates its social reintegration, thus prevents fragmentation of supply and centers the efforts within the areas where they may have more opportunities in the labor and/or entrepreneurial market.
- The strategy of social reintegration may not be seen as an element added up during the final phase of the Program. The lesson is that parallel to the phase of assistance social reintegration must start as soon as the children enter the Program, so once they are ready to reencounter with their family, the attitudes, knowledge and educational and labor abilities are further consolidated.
- The opportunities of education become factors of development not only for each of the adolescents as a person, but also for their families and communities. Thus, a great effort must be done to see methodologies in depth that will enable them to transfer technologies to their regions and make their experience and training in the Program become factors of human development.
- After a permanent effort developed to extend coverage the Program must migrate to differentiate the plan of assistance in such a way the Colombian Government assumes what corresponds to the sustenance of each youngster within the program (child/cost/month); international cooperation centers its actions in giving support to projects by providing tools to the youth to fully exercise their rights (education, occupational formation, health); NGOs as operators have management capacity, administration, technical and methodological capacity, and Government institutions to support formulating Public Policies, research and design of strategies of assistance.
- Financial and administrative problems faced by some NGOs operators of the Program leaves us the learned lesson that selection processes must give a greater rating to the administrative and financial capacity of these agencies, without leaving aside technical proposals, which to date have received most of the attention.
- Finally, the worsening of the armed conflict in the country requires the census of spaces among institutions identified by the Contingency Plan be kept updated in the face of an eventual demobilization en masse of children from irregular armed groups.

X. WORK PRIORITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER

The end of the next quarter (January-March 2003) also sees the completion of the Program of Assistance to Ex-Combatant Children; thus the priority is designing a way-out strategy to consolidate the Program in its phase of assistance, pilot designs and experiences for the phase of Social Reintegration, management and administrative recommendations to NGOs, and Public Policy for Children in matters of childhood and armed conflict for government authorities: ICBF, Governor's Office of Cauca and Chocó, Human Rights Ombudsman Office, and the Ministries of Health and Education.

Furthermore, to guarantee completion of ongoing projects, disseminating results procuring to assure its sustainability by the consolidation at the Colombian Institute for Family Welfare – ICBF – of Program responsibilities.

On the other hand, special emphasis will be placed in dissemination of the model and results emitted by the Evaluation and Monitoring System and the economic study prepared by IOM, and by the Follow-up Study of 200 youngsters that have gone through the Program developed by the Human Rights Ombudsman Office.

Lastly, the challenge exists of bringing closer the productive sector to the problematic of boys and girls victims of the war, creating reintegration labor conditions and connecting to the productive processes of the young formed by the program.

XI. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Actas de Visita de Seguimiento y Supervisión a los Programas. Elaborada por Alexandra Jiménez, OIM, Blanca Cecilia Valenzuela, ICBF. Octubre a Diciembre 2002.

Artículo: "Congreso aprueba eliminación de requisito de estatus político para celebrar diálogos con la guerrilla: Ley 418". El Tiempo, 25 Octubre de 2002.

Artículo: "Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia (Auc) ofrecen tregua indefinida". Diario El Tiempo, 29 de noviembre de 2002.

Artículo: "Alarmante informe de Defensoría del Pueblo y UNICEF sobre niños reclutados para la guerra". El Tiempo, 4 de diciembre de 2002.

Artículo: "Los niños de la guerra", Angela Constanza Jerez. Diario El Tiempo, 4 de diciembre de 2002.

Artículo: "Atención a niños desmovilizados", Diario del Sur (Nariño), 5 de diciembre de 2002, página 5ª.

Artículo: "Allá vale más un fusil: ICBF tiene programa para menores desvinculados". Diario El Tiempo, 15 de diciembre de 2002.

Artículo: "La guerra de los niños", Angela Constanza Jerez y Luis Miño Rueda. Diario El Tiempo, 15 de diciembre de 2002.

Artículo: "Quejas por atención a niños de la guerra". Diario El Tiempo, diciembre de 2002.

Artículo: "Propuesta educativa de Fundación Rayuela". Revista Educación Y Cultura". Noviembre - Diciembre 2002.

Documento: "Acercamiento a las dinámicas en los hogares Transitorios". Protocolos de Atención. Elaborado por: Rommel Rojas Rubio, Consultor convenio ICBF – OIM – SCUJ, Diciembre 2002

Documento: "Estudio de Costos: Programa de atención a niños, niñas y jóvenes desvinculados del conflicto armado". Elaborado por: Marco Ramos, Alexandra Jiménez, consultores OIM.

Documento: "Niños, niñas y jóvenes desvinculados del conflicto armado. Encuentros Familiares". Elaborado por: Pilar Cortes Salamanca, Bogotá, Diciembre 2002

Documento: "Ruta de Desmovilización Indígena". Luis Fernando Quijano - Consultor OIM. Diciembre, 2002.

Documento: "Perfil deseado del joven al salir del CAE". Carmen Carvajal compiladora. Diciembre de 2002.

Guías: "Diseño de pruebas e interpretaciones de resultados en grados 5° y 9° sobre la materia lenguaje y matemáticas, en educación básica, con manual y parte conceptual del MEN-ICFES. Junio de 2002.

Informe Final: "Atención Especializada de Bogotá, Cundinamarca, Bucaramanga, Cali, Medellín y Cauca". Profamilia. Diciembre, 2002.

Informe de Avance: "Atención a Jóvenes Desvinculados del Conflicto Armado' Programa: Puertas Abiertas. Fundación Don Bosco, Cali. Octubre 2002.

Informe Final: "Difusión en el Ministerio Público de la Ruta Jurídica y Fundamentos Normativos de los Niños, Niñas y Jóvenes Desvinculados del Conflicto Armado". Defensoría del Pueblo. Diciembre, 2002.

Informes Final: "Propuesta final pedagógica de la fundación Rayuela". Elaborado de los pedagogos de la fundación Rayuela con apoyo de Hugo Hidalgo, consultor de pedagogía en OIM. Diciembre 2002.

Informe Trimestral: "Proyecto Escojo la Palabra", Eje Formativo. Elaborado por equipo encargado de Proyecto, Cerlalc. Bogotá, Diciembre 2002.

Informe Preliminar: "Estadísticas Atención a Jóvenes Desvinculados del Conflicto Armado" en el marco del programa de Atención ICBF, proyecto USAID-OIM-ICBF. Elaborado por Marco Antonio Collazos, Consultor ICBF-OIM. Octubre a Diciembre 2002.

Libro: "Caminos Recorridos: Una Mirada Hacia los Centros de Atención Especializada". ICBF-OIM-SCUK. Noviembre, 2002.

Libro: "Niños, niñas y jóvenes y conflicto armado en el 2002: una aproximación documental". Coalición contra la vinculación de niños, niñas y jóvenes al conflicto armado en Colombia. Octubre de 2002.

Libro: " El derecho a la educación". UNICEF y Fundación Restrepo Barco. Junio de 2002.

Memorias: "Niños, Niñas y Jóvenes Indígenas Desvinculados del Conflicto Armado. Taller ONIC-OIM". ONIC-OIM, Diciembre, 2002.